

ISC
Seventh
Anniversary

KEEP STRONG

A Publication of the Intercommunal Survival Committee
Vol. 2 No. 10 MAY, 1977 25 CENTS

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**HEALTH
CARE
IS A
HUMAN
RIGHT**

Also Inside:

- Milwaukee Teachers' Strike
- Health Care In N.Y.C.: "Planned Shambles"
- Dismissal in Hampton Murder Suit



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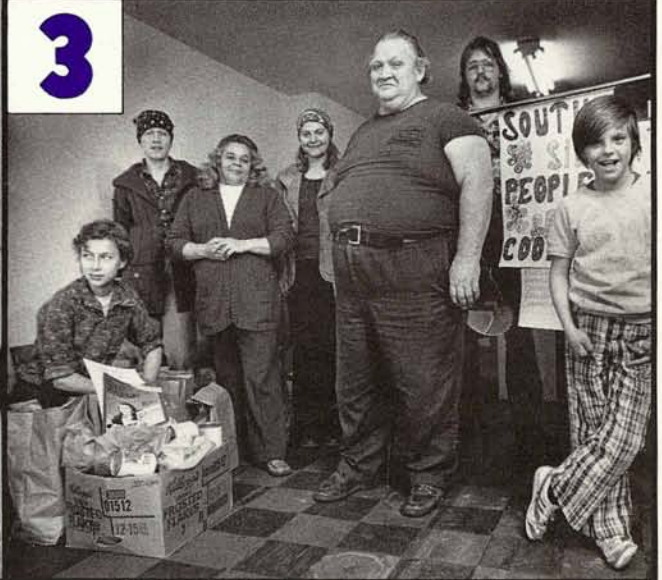
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HEALTH CARE

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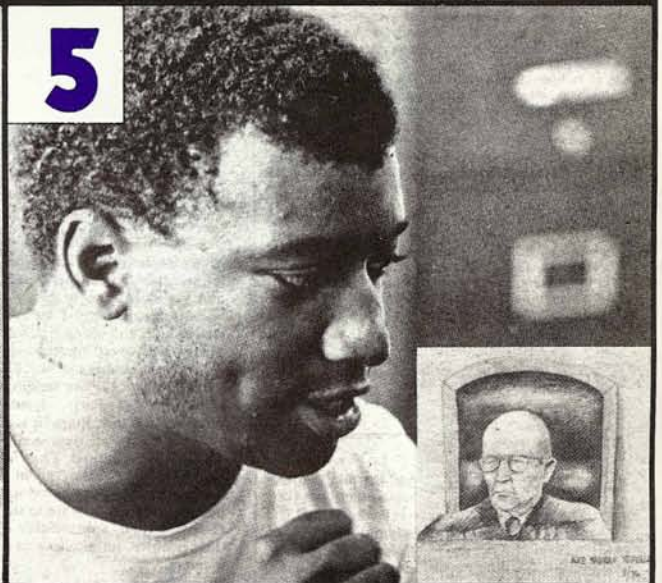
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In

This Issue

1. In Chicago, Board of Health Director Murray Brown has blocked a new comprehensive health clinic with a special black lung facility. See page 24.
2. In New York, the Health and Hospital Corporation continues to close down hospital facilities leading many to call the N.Y.C. hospital system "planned shambles." See page 26.
3. In Milwaukee, The Southside People's Community Food Co-op has received broad support in its first month of operations. See page 13.
4. Workers at birth control factories in Puerto Rico have been found to suffer serious illnesses as a result of handling female hormones everyday. Unlike the picture, few people are protected by masks. See page 37.
5. Federal Judge Joseph Sam Perry has dismissed all conspiracy charges against the FBI, Hanrahan and other state defendants in the Fred Hampton murder trial. See page 32.

Masterplans For Health Care

Our memories are too short. We need to improve our memories, and we need to put our memories together, or these cities will break us. If you lose someone because you could not get decent health care for them, or if paying for medical expenses has drained you of everything you have, then you are liable to be driven to the end of your rope. You give up. You move out of the city - but where you go it is worse. We are running, and we have got to stop. If we put our memories together, we can see what it is we are up against, all of us, and determine how to fight it together.

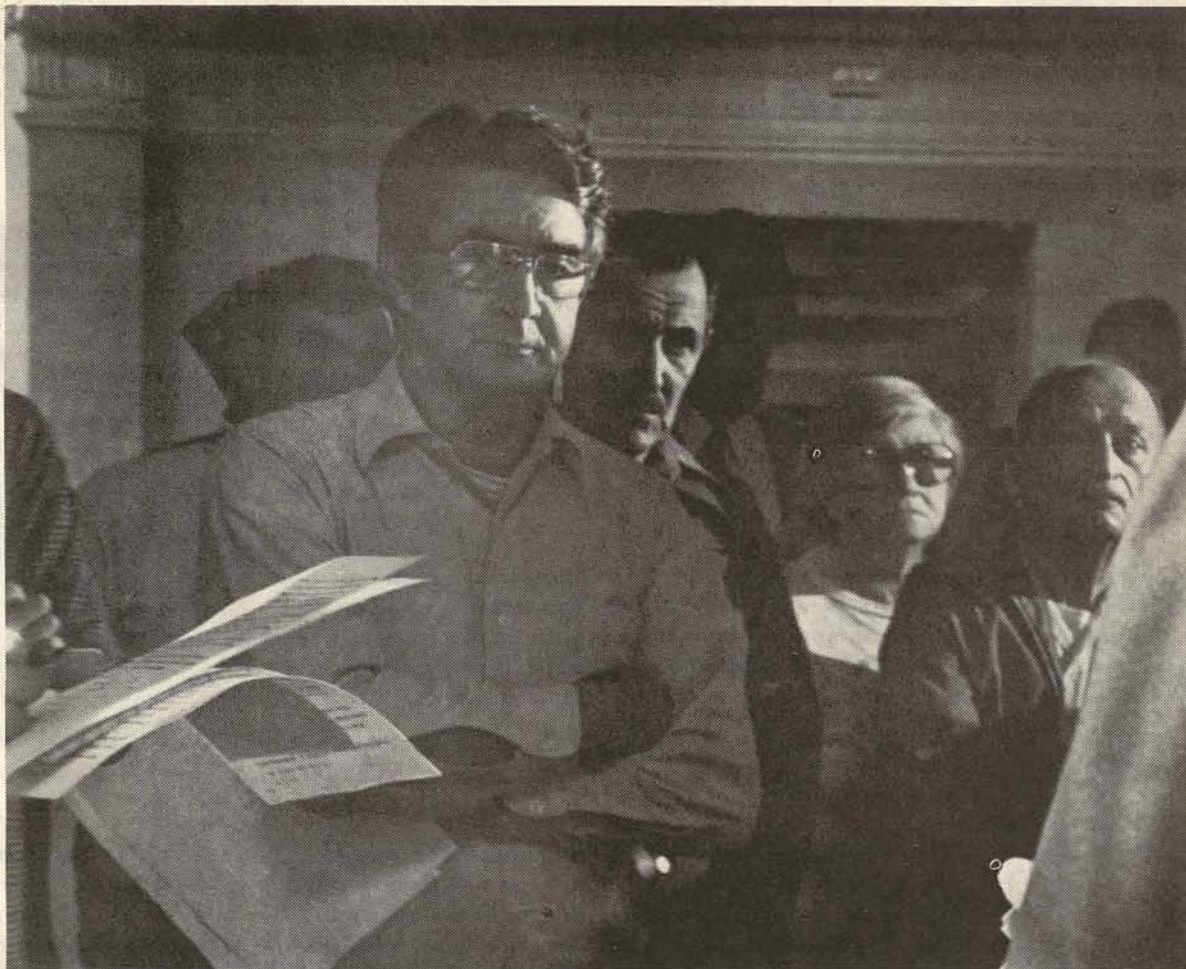
The difficulty in getting decent medical care is increasing. What there is of it is too expensive, and none of it is good quality. Medical catastrophes are happening to everyone in the cities, and this is a calculated situation.

Some things are happening because those in power don't keep them from happening. Private doctors are leaving the cities and going to the suburbs where they can make more money. The private doctors and clinics that remain stay and make money by dispensing drugs in volume and spend no time in diagnosing and treating illness.

Private hospitals are staffed by private doctors whose patients come from the suburbs. Those with public aid medical cards, and even worse, those who can't get cards, are routinely turned away from these hospitals.

But most cities do have public medical care that is low-cost or free. Like Chicago's Board of Health, these have become political weapons. They are used to keep out other attempts at quality, low-cost medical care, and then their own services are reduced to nothing.

The city's policy on health care - In Chicago, or New York or Milwaukee - is no different than its policies on housing or jobs or education. All services are legally brought under the control of the city. If the city can't control it, it destroys it - the way it destroyed countless free clinics in Chicago in the 1960's by constant harassment. Then the city begins to cut back the services, in order to drive the poor and working population out of



Members of the Chicago Area Black Lung Association and the Uptown Tenants Survival Union demand a community health clinic in Uptown.

the neighborhoods.

The developing Health Systems Agencies In cities throughout the country give the elite business and political structures central control of health care. The elimination of health care In low-income neighborhoods is one more link in the masterplans.

The poor and working people In the cities, a majority of whom are Black and Latino, are gathered together in a massive but unorganized force. We are potentially able to make demands on this country on our own behalf more powerfully than ever before. The masterplans are designed to disperse this powerful force from the cities quickly, before we get the changes we have the human right and the human might to get. But the people, the sleeping giant is awakening, demanding health care and jobs, housing, education and justice. And the masterplans will be defeated - If we wake up fast enough. O

on TileIT~eeJ

MURRAY BROWN, DIRECTOR OF THE CHICAGO BOARD OF HEALTH, SAID RECENTLY THAT "UPTOWN RECEIVES TOO MUCH HEALTH CARE." DO YOU THINK THAT'S TRUE?



Gloria Asay
W. Sunnyside

"I feel that there should be more medical care, because the people are older and can't get around. They don't have insurance. They should have better things for older people and younger people who are disabled and can't work. And there's not enough health care to provide for everyone, and there will never be, • don't think, unless people help other people get what they need. We should all stick together and fight for that need."

Arthur Shelley
W. Wilson



"I think he's nuts. • live up here, and to see one of the doctors in one of the medical centers, you have to wait half a day - a day thrown away for nothing, and you don't get to see him. And if you make an appointment It's a month before you get to see him. If you had too much medical care, you should be able to see a doctor right away. You shouldn't be on a waiting list for a month. I think he's nuts."



Eddie Berner
N. Winthrop

"He doesn't know what he's talking about. It's very easy for a man in his position to make a statement like that. People are never getting too much health care. We can always use more and more health care in the community, as far as that goes. Murray Brown? I know Dr. Murray Brown. I met him, and he's the sort of doctor who has never been to the Uptown area himself. He can't really make a general statement about health care, whether there's too much or not. He has no way of knowing."

Tom Holtzer
N. Sheridan



"It's not true. We don't have enough. Look around. They say we have too much, but look around on the streets. You see sick and disabled people, and there is no one helping them. • had an experience at the clinic on Hazel and Wilson. They're not fast or accurate. They take a long time to wait for someone, even if you have an appointment your appointment is half an hour to 45 minutes late. It's not accurate. I wasn't satisfied."



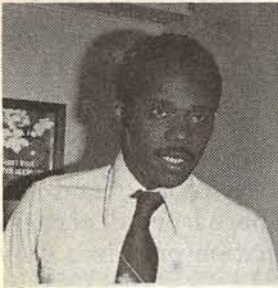
Dorothy Wienfurter
N. Magnolia

"No, we need more doctors, better doctors that don't give out so much dope. Most of them give dope out or give you medicine that makes you so sick you can't even take it."

Georgia Blankenship
N. Hoyne



"I see quite a few people, in my neighborhood on Hoyne, and even the ones that are getting medical cards still don't get their proper care; even when you have a prescription filled with one of those medical cards - the people who pay cash get the full dosage, but the people who have medical cards don't. When I lived on Sheridan Road I had to have medicine for my stomach, and this druggist told me that people on medical cards don't get the full dosage."



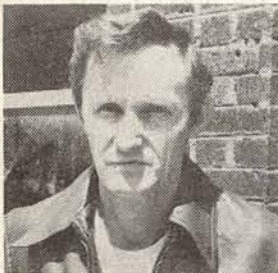
Raymond Dailey
W. Windsor

"No, I don't think you can ever have too much health care. Everyone needs to be covered to the fullest, medically. Your body is your number one priority. If you don't take care of it, where are you? You're nowhere. I see a lot of people suffering who shouldn't be. Someone should go out of their way to see these people. It's unnecessary."

Jackie Lambert
N. Magnolia



"No, people should have as much health care as they can get. People need a lot of help around here. They should have as many health centers as they can."



Charles Ray Hall
N. Lorel

"No I don't, because the people need it. No, I don't think they get enough. Myself, I work. I got arthritis in the back of the head, I have stomach trouble, nerve condition, and it's costing me more to pay doctor bills and medical bills than I can earn to live on."

Glenda Rooney
S. Lake Park



"It depends on what kind of health care you're talking about and for whom. If you're talking about people who can afford to pay for their health care, then maybe that's correct. But if you're talking about people who have limited income and resources, then it's ... The whole city doesn't have enough care. The issue is so crucial all over - you do get a better bargain if you have the money to afford it."

WELFARE RIGHTS

\$100 Bonus For Late Food Stamps

(Chicago, Ill.) Anyone who has ever applied for public aid or food stamps knows that it is not as simple as walking in and saying you need help. Everything you say has to be proven, with documents and certificates, to be the truth.

One thing that most people don't know is that the Department of Public Aid has the legal responsibility to provide help to anyone who is eligible within a certain period of time. If they don't, then they have to give \$100 in compensation.

The time period for food stamps is 30 days. If more than 30 days pass from the time the application is filed and no food stamps are received, then, providing they have all the information and documents they need in order to make a determination on the case, the Department of Public Aid owes the applicant \$100.

In order to get this money, it will probably be necessary to file an appeal. To do this, the appeals coordinator at the welfare office where the application was filed should be contacted and the situation explained to this person. If there is a problem, it can be cleared up by looking in the food stamp manual, chapter 705, where this policy of the \$100 is explained in detail.

The same applies to ADC cases, but the time limit is 45 days. If more than 45 days go by between the time an ADC application is filed and the time the first check is received, then Public Aid is supposed to automatically send the applicant their \$100 bonus. However, it's a good idea to appeal anyway, and the same procedure should be followed as for the food stamp appeal. The policy is explained in the ADC manual, also chapter 705.

After an appeal form is signed and submitted to public aid, an appeal hearing is scheduled. The person filing the appeal should receive a letter stating the date and time scheduled for this hearing. The hearing takes place at the welfare office where the application was filed, and a hearing officer will be present to make sure it is a fair hearing. The appellant may bring someone

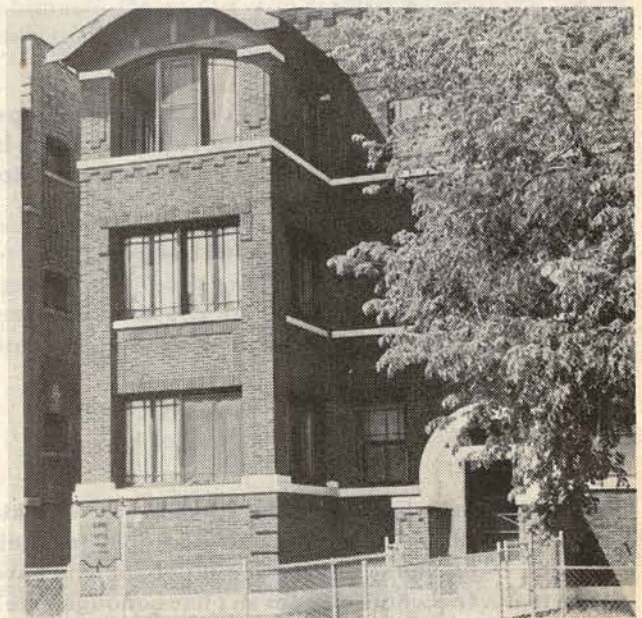
down with them to the hearing. This can be a friend, relative or anyone he or she chooses. 0

TENANTS' RIGHTS

Three Star Enterprises Milking Community

(Chicago, Ill.) As the plan to drive us from our neighborhoods unfolds in front of our eyes, more and more seedy characters appear on the streets of our communities. Real estate brokers and fast buck chisellers are attracted here from all corners as the climate of land speculation promises easy money for no work.

A series of complaints, ranging from illegal lockouts to lack of plumbing, has sparked a joint investigation by the staffs of *KEEP STRONG* Magazine and the Uptown Tenants Survival Union into the recent movement into the Uptown area of a real estate outfit calling itself Three Star Enterprises with offices at 5910 N. Milwaukee. Claiming to be legitimate property managers who provide a paid service, Three Star's goons appear in three piece suits driving Cadillac Eldorados to explain that they are new to the Uptown area and new to property management business and are making mistakes



A series of complaints has sparked an investigation of the real estate outfit, Three Star Enterprises.

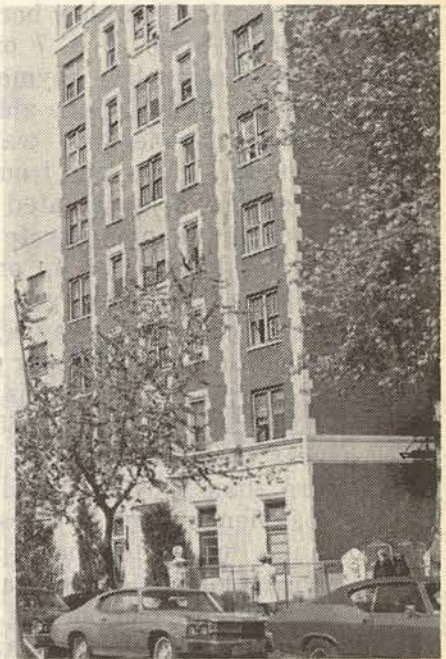
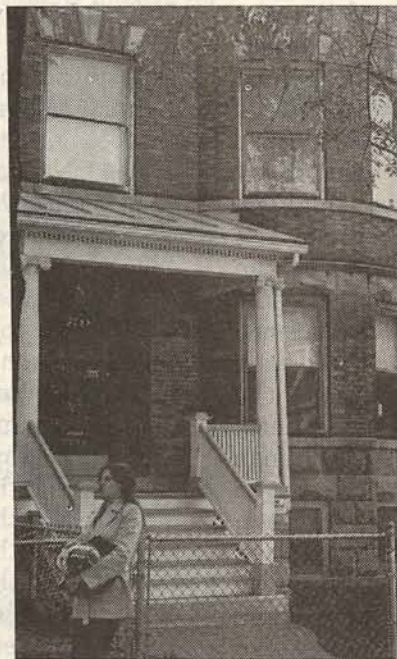
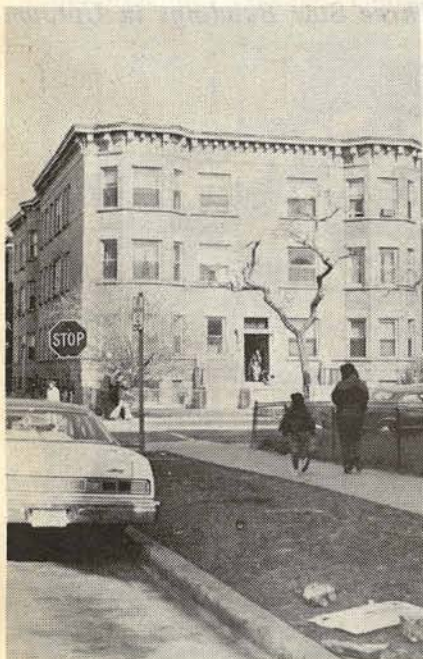


Many tenants have complained of coming home and finding their door plugged and all their belongings seized.

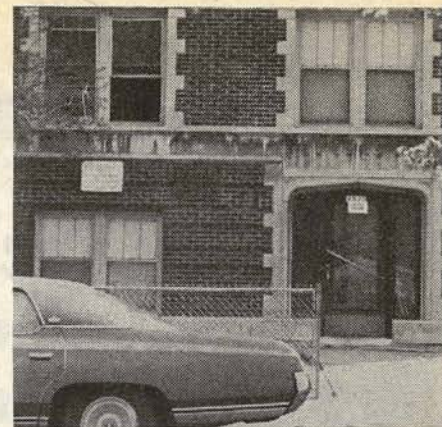
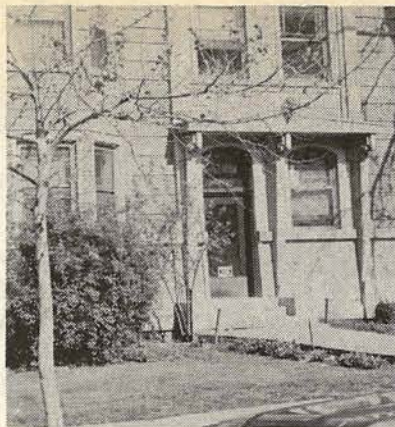
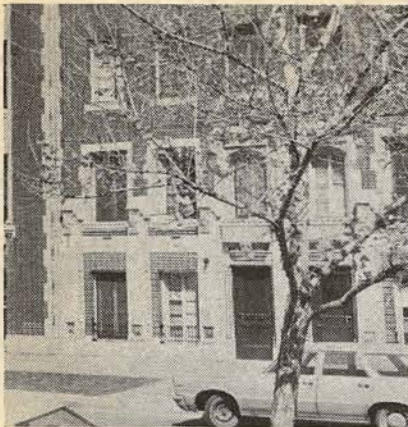
and having "normal growing pains." This apparent respectability has proven to be very shallow in light of facts which have been disclosed in the last month.

While claiming to "manage" only 652 units in Uptown, city hall's records indicate that Three Star, or its owners, Kittle, Trimpe and Hukavari among others, has acquired the titles (legal ownership) to over 20 buildings with twice that many units in the last year. While some of these buildings have been bought from small

landlords, many more have been gotten from known slumlords such as the Gutman brothers, Joe Sadacca, as well as Rasky and others. Tenants are channeled directly into their buildings from the Illinois Department of Public Aid or state, county and city institutions through the city's social service network. Many tenants have complained of coming home and finding their door plugged and all their belongings seized. While Three Star requires all new tenants to fill out applications, this is really a hoax. They ignore the applications and offer the tenants no



While claiming to manage only 652 units in Uptown, records indicate that Three Star has the titles to over 20 buildings with twice that many units.



"The real losers are the tenants who are forced to live in these wretched conditions while the buildings are being bled and passed from owner to owner."

security in return. In many of their buildings tenants have complained that they have used beatings and brute force against senior citizens and other defenseless people in order to collect rents or remove tenants.

But all of this is just the icing. The real game is juice. What is juice? Juice is the liquid you grind or squeeze out of a piece of fruit. Juice is the \$20 difference between the \$50 you borrow from the shylock on the corner and the \$70 you pay back to him. It is the interest on any loan, the money they make for doing nothing.

Three Star started with a small amount of money. They bought a building putting up one-tenth of its price and financing the rest through the Maywood Proviso State Bank or another one like it. Then they borrowed the rest of the purchase price at 6, 7 or 8% interest, paying it back in monthly payments. They hold the building for a short time and put it up for sale, finding someone who wants to buy a building but can't get a loan from a bank. They sell it on contract at an inflated price (higher), and they jack up the interest rate 2-3 points. The contract buyer has to put up one-tenth of the purchase price, so they get their original investment back right away. The difference between what the contract buyer pays them each month and they pay to the bank is the juice - the profit. This can be as much as \$500 per month. Over a year that's \$6,000, and in 20 buildings that's more than \$100 thousand. If the buyer misses a payment or two, he owes more interest. If he defaults (misses too many payments) they take the building back and start all over with someone else; they lose nothing. After a while the juice will be squeezed out, and the last one holding the building will walk away because there isn't any money left in an empty shell.

While the investigation of Three Star and its co-conspirators, Rea Investments, 6625 N. Winthrop, and Marken Realty, 4527 N. Broadway, is still in the early stages, a partial list of their buildings has been compiled through the efforts of many community residents. Spokespersons for the Uptown Tenants Survival Union, announcing their intention to continue the investigation, stated earlier in the month, "The real losers are the tenants who are forced to live in these wretched conditions while the buildings are being bled and passed from owner to owner who have no regard for the well being of our families, and the people of the central city neighborhoods in general. This is a pointed, conscious cancer, eating away at the life of our community." O

Partial List of Three Star Buildings in Uptown Area

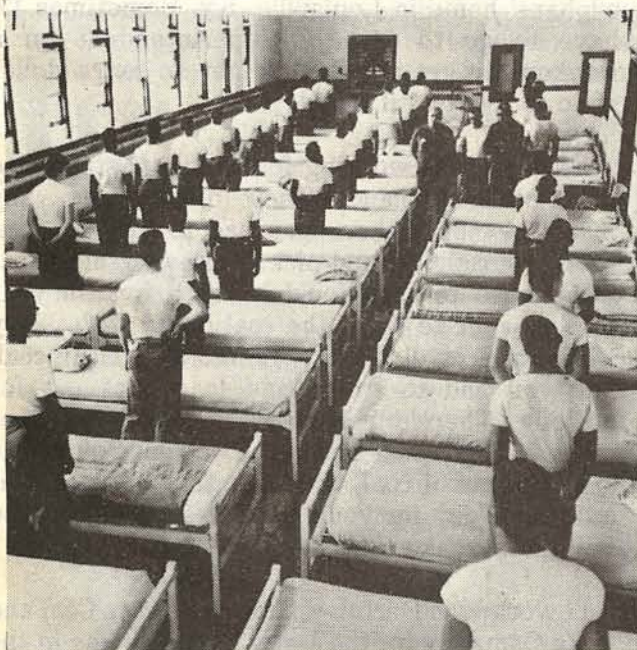
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4706 N. Beacon
4727 N. Malden
4635 N. Malden
4655 N. Malden
4875 N. Magnolia
4856 N. Magnolia
5114 N. Kenmore
5213 N. Kenmore
5533 N. Kenmore
5525 N. Winthrop
5526 N. Winthrop
6040 N. Winthrop
5625 N. Winthrop
5024 N. Glenwood
4201-7 N. Sheridan
927 Eastwood
851-3 W. Montrose

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

St. Charles: "They Treat You Like Hardened Criminals"

St. Charles Institution for Boys, Department of Corrections, Juveniles, is an all-boys' institution in northeastern Illinois (See KEEP STRONG; Nov., 1975). Most of the 500-600 inmates are Black, Latino and poor White youth from the Chicago area. Following is the personal account of Jack French (not his real name) of what goes on at St. Charles. He talks of the conditions there and the relationships among Black, Latino and White inmates.

"They treat you like hardened criminals. You ain't supposed to be treated like that; you're supposed to be treated like a juvenile. They beat you. The second day I was there I was beaten by a guard. I got into this fight with a boy over putting my silverware in my cup. (You're supposed to put your silverware in your cup.) The guard snatched me and took me into this little room and hit me with one of those plastic things they use for books. After that they put me into McKinley Cottage. That cottage is mostly for



St. Charles: "If you get a bunch of guards that start racial stuff all the time, you're going to have riots."

people who mess up.

"If you messed up they'd put you in this little room called 'the box.' They'd feed us through the little hole in the door. We sat there for about five days. They'd let us out once or twice a day for a smoke or a shower. If you didn't feel like working, then you'd have to go to Roosevelt (the box) for no reason. You'd go there and get a 30 day sit (hold). When you came in they gave you a sheet of paper that gave all the rules and regulations. You'd have to follow it if you wanted to get out in a shorter time. But when you'd get to the cottage they'd change the rules on you. You'd check the rules out, do by the rules, then all of a sudden you've messed up somewhere.

"The people on the Farm (guards) were prejudiced toward Black people who would start fights. The guards were White, they would treat us different than they'd treat the Black people, and that would start fights. They would sit back and let people jump on people. The guards were mostly the ones starting it. They'd say, 'That dude over there said something about you the other day.' Then three or four Black dudes would jump on one White dude or three or four White dudes would catch one Black dude.

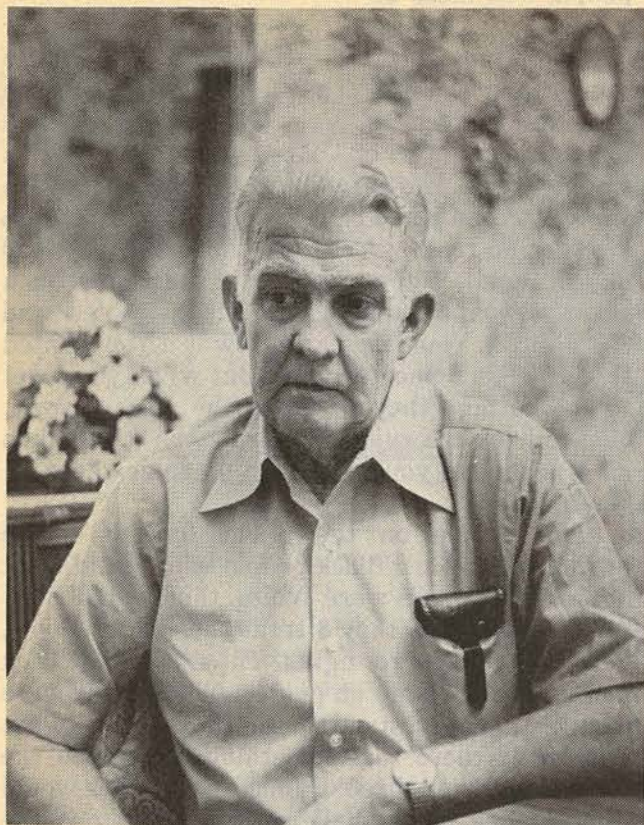
"The guy who runs the place couldn't care less what happens to people as long as he gets paid for his job. His name is Mr. Thomas. He gets mad because there are riots. If you get a bunch of guards that start racial stuff all the time, you're going to have riots."D

BLACK WING

A Miner's Story

Walter Scott lives in Chicago's Uptown community with his wife and their son. He is an ex-miner and active member of the Chicago Area Black Lung Association. Mr. Scott spent many years working in the mines and eventually contracted black lung disease. After several years of being shuttled back and forth by various government agencies, Mr. Scott expects his first black lung check this month.

"I started in the mines when I was 17 years old.



Walter Scott: "I consider myself awful lucky getting by as long as I did."

My father died and left a big family. I was the oldest one, so I went to work in the mines at Jenkins, Kentucky.

"I first started helping set timbers. There wasn't any such thing as the 8 hour day - you worked until you got done. We'd go in early in the morning, and a lot of times we wouldn't get home until 8:00 or 9:00 at night. We'd have to wait 'til all the coal loaders got their coal loaded out, a lot of times, before we could set the timbers. That was in 1931.

"We started to organize in '33. The companies were all against the unions back then. They wouldn't let us meet on their property, so we had to leave the mining camp where we lived to hold our meetings. The company was fighting us every way they could. They would pass papers out in the mine for us to joirt a company union. We all knew what that would be so none of us would join. And we finally got organized. I'll never forget the first big meeting we had. It was at Pikeville, Ky. John L. Lewis was there, and he told us about all the benefits that we would get from the union. The bosses would tell you, "You better not do it if you want a job." Back then it was the beginning of the depression, and there wasn't any jobs. You just about had to do anything they told you to do.

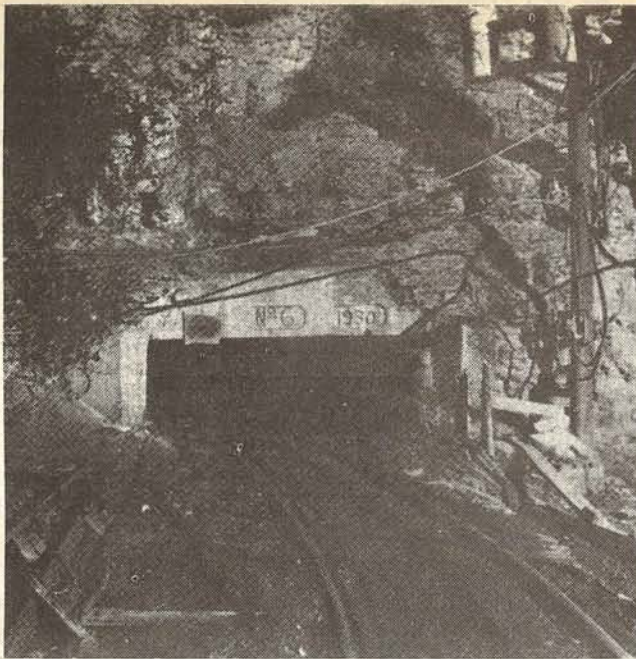
"The first contract that we worked out we got a raise. We had things going pretty good. Then we started to go into other mines to organize them. We went over to Harlan County, Ky. at the Benham Mine. I think International Harvester owned it, but we never did get them organized. They had machine guns set up on top of the bath house and these security guards or police :- gun thugs, I'd call them. We weren't allowed to get off the main highway. We could drive through the town, but we couldn't stop.

"But Lynch, Ky. was a big operation. We got it organized all right. Then we went to Wise County, Va. at the Clinch Field Corporation. We had an awful time there getting them organized. They would try to pay their men a little bit more than what we were getting in order to keep them from organizing. Back at this time all the companies had scrip. You had to use that in the company store, just the same as money. But, of course, they'd charge you double for anything you bought there. This company in Wise County would pay their guys off in silver dollars to keep them from organizing. A couple of raises after the first one, we (the union) got up to \$6 and something, and they were paying their men \$7 a day.

"There wasn't anybody who had any money. I've gone for three or four months and not got even one penny in money because we lived in the mining camp. I had my mother, two brothers and a sister, and I had to pay the rent and all my company expenses before I could get a penny. The younger kids finally had to go the Masonic orphans' home in Louisville, Ky. Sometimes I'd have to go to see the superintendent on a weekend to get the O.K. to get an extra dollar scrip to live on 'til Monday.

"After I was working for awhile, I started to load coal by hand. They didn't have any machinery back then. You had to buy all your tools, your shovel and pick, and everything that you'd need to use. You'd have to furnish your own powder to shoot the coal down with. They were strict on dirt. They wanted 90% clean coal, and you had to sweep and load that out for nothing. There'd be a earful of it, sometimes more. You got paid by the ton of coal. You had to load 10 tons of coal, then, for \$3 and pay about a dollar a day for your explosives besides. You still didn't make anything.

"I worked in Derby, Va. for the Stony Coal and Coke Company for the last 12 years I was in the mines, and it was hand-loading. In 1959, they shut this mine down to put in machinery. They



"We'd go in early in the morning, and a lot of times we wouldn't get home until 8:00 or 9:00 at night."

left it down for three or four months and run all the men off. What they wanted to do was get rid of most of the men. Then they called 40 or 50 of us back.

"We had to go before the company doctor for X-rays. I'd say 75% of us were forced to sign waivers that we wouldn't sue the company on account of coal dust or silicosis or pneumoconiosis, which I did because I had my kids at home then. There were five of them, and they were all small. There wasn't any work in that part of the country, and everybody was in debt. We were glad just to get back to work, so we signed the waivers. They finally shut that mine down again.

"In West Virginia in 1961, I worked at Consolidated Coal Co., and I was on the loading machine. The dust would be that thick (half way to your knee). You'd take a step, and it just puffed right up in your face. The coal was about 4 1/2 foot high, and these loading machines had about 500 feet of electrical cable on them, and you could get up where you were going to load the coal and look way back down through there and see fire flying everywhere. I was scared to death all the time I was there. I don't know what in the world kept it from blowing up. That was in 1961, after the safety laws were passed.

"I consider myself awful lucky, getting by as long as I did. But I was covered up several times in slate falls. One time I was on the night shift in this mine in Derby where I had worked so long. It

was low coal (about 2 1/2 ft.), and I was working on the loader, you're on your knees down beside it, and this rock fell. My hat was rubbing the top, and I felt it give, and I just came down as it did. The ladder's about 32 ft. long, and it covered that whole thing up. It just knocked me down flat beside it. The boy starting in to get a load of coal on the shuttle car, saw it fall, and he thought I was gone. It did knock my cap off and my light, and I was way back up under that rock. It didn't break it was so solid. It was thick enough where it didn't break; it just caught on the loader. He was hollering for help, and I finally made him understand that I was alright, and he crawled back under that rock, and got me by the feet and pulled me out.

"Then I came to Chicago. After they passed the law where you could collect for black lung, I went on my vacation to a doctor down there, and he sent me a copy of my X-ray reports which the company had taken in 1959. When I saw what kind of shape my lungs were in, I decided I was either going to sue the company or get black lung. So I went to the social security office in Virginia. They filed the report~ and sent them to the social security board at Lawrence Ave. in Chicago. I was approved right away, and they sent me my award letter. I was working here in Chicago, and they called there wanting to know why I was still working, and why I hadn't retired. I told them I had an easy job.

"My claim was approved in 1972, but I didn't collect it, because I worked until December, 1975 when I got so bad I finally had to quit. Then I applied for social security disability. At that time I told them I was approved for black lung, and the guy said when this disability report went in they would automatically pick up my black lung checks. I kept waiting and waiting. Finally the disability came through, but I still hadn't heard anything from the black lung. I went back to the social security office, and they said I would have to sign up again Under the Department of Labor. I said, 'No. I've already been approved, and I don't have to re-sign up nowhere.'

"They kept giving me the runaround, and finally last September, I did sign up again under the Department of Labor. I called them, and they told me to contact Baltimore, then they sent me back to Lawrence Avenue and kept me running around and around. Finally the lady called me from Baltimore after I'd filed with the Department of Labor and said; 'you have your award through the 1969 Coal Miners Health and Safety Act, and that's supposed to go through the social security office. O

RANK'NFILE

IBEW Local 1031 Chicago: Union Leadership Retaliates

(Chicago, Ill.) In a style familiar to Chicago politics, the local leadership of IBEW local 1031 quickly retaliated last month against rank and file insurgents. Following a scenario of strong arm tactics and corrupt politicking, the union leadership successfully maintained political control of their local.

In recent months the United IBEW Workers, a rank and file caucus of union members, have launched a dynamic campaign against the union's bureaucratic leadership. They had already been successful in getting many stewards elected and even had a chief steward in their ranks. In January, they announced a slate to run in the union's elections on April 24.

Many union members believe that a January change in by-laws to make stewards appointed rather than elected was a reaction to these recent victories by the rank and file.

The voting place for the April 24 election was the airport. Being an inconvenient location for the majority of the union membership who live in Chicago, the rank and file protested. A federal judge refused to change the voting place claiming



Candidate for business manager on the United IBEW Workers' slate, Everett Biegalski.

he had no jurisdiction.

Out of 16,000 union members, only 2,000 voted on April 24. 13,000 were to vote at the airport. 3,000 members who work outside of the Chicago area were granted the right to vote in the parking lots of the plants where they work. Of these 3,000, one thousand voted (30% turnout). Where it was hard for people to get to the voting place the turnout was less than 8%. The rank and file slate received 30% of the vote.

On the day of the election, as the votes were being counted, Charles Scott who was on the rank and file slate for executive board, received a telegram from the Raleigh Corporation. They informed him that as of that date he was fired. He received no explanation.

On Friday, April 29, seven stewards, who had been elected by union members and who had worked on the insurgent slate, were removed from their positions by the union. This included Neil Burke who had been a chief steward. No reasons were given. In many cases they are being replaced by the same people that were voted out when the stewards were elected.

IBEW caucus members, however, are encouraged. Working against great odds, they felt that many union members now have a better understanding of whose interests the union leadership really represents. "Many people used to feel that it wasn't worth fighting for a change because it wouldn't make a difference. When we got our people in as stewards they really did things for the other members. People saw that things could be better. Now that these stewards are gone and have been replaced by the same ones we had before who did nothing, people are angry. They know it is possible to have something better." O

IBEW Local 3, N.Y.C.: "I Thought Unions Were' Supposed To Be For The Workers'"

(N.Y.C., N.Y.) The IBEW, a union that is notorious for its own peculiar brand of "company unionism," is not much different in New York



"Before I started working at Leviton I thought unions were supposed to be for the workers."

City than in Chicago. This past month *KEEP STRONG* got a chance to talk to some workers who are members of Local 3, who work at Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc. of 236 Greenpoint Ave., Brooklyn, New York. They raised many questions and complaints about the practices of the union.

"It seems like whenever anyone starts to speak out against the union, or for some better conditions, they get fired by the bosses," one worker said. He cited the example of a woman who was fired at the beginning of March for passing around a petition to remove Andy Ratway, the chief steward at the plant.

The union contract provides for a minimum wage of \$2.60 per hour, which is lower than the minimum wage recommended by the federal government. Another provision of the contract is that "the union agrees that it will not post any controversial material upon the bulletin board, , , the union shall post only such matters as are submitted to the employer and are approved by him."

Another section of the contract says that shop stewards are automatically number one in seniority. If they were fighters they would need that protection, but since they're not it becomes a privilege.

One of the workers said; "I have a hard time understanding where my \$3.60 a month (union dues) is going. They cut out the dentist plan a year ago, and we don't have any insurance."

Some of the people mentioned the contract that workers fought for and won at Eagle Electric Co. in Long Island as being more in line with what they'd like to see.

The major complaint was that the union didn't really fight for the workers. One of the workers pointed out that every time there is a problem, the union, before talking it over with the workers, goes to management and works it out. As one man put it, "Before I started working at Leviton I thought unions were supposed to be for the workers. In the three years I've worked here I really got some questions about that." O

CONSUMER WATCH

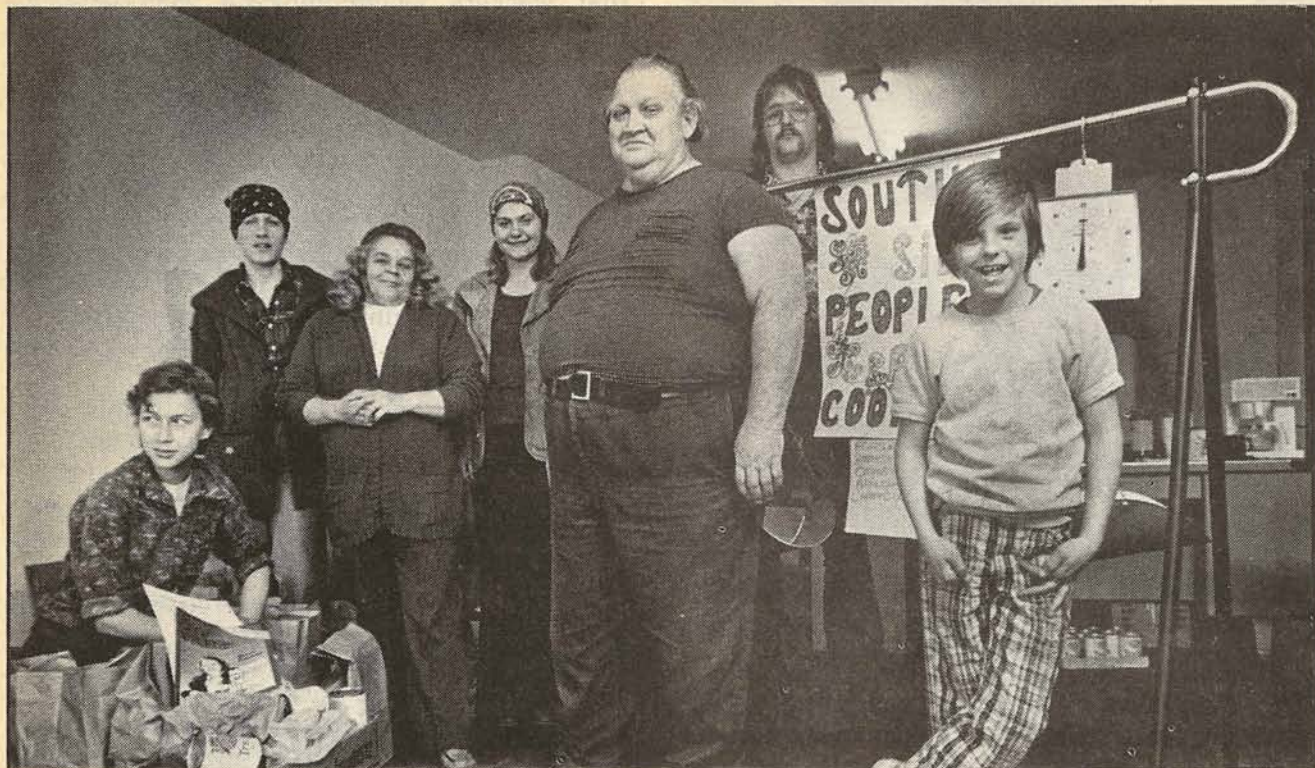
Southside People's Food Co-op Off To Good Start

(Milw., Wis.) After several months of research and investigation, the Intercommunal Survival Committee initiated its newest survival program: The Southside People's Food Co-op, located at 11th and Greenfield (1400 S. 11th St.). The program was set up to provide high quality food for the lowest possible price, utilizing the collective buying power of the community.

The Food Co-op is run by community volunteers, ranging in age from 10 to 80. The



The children of several co-op families pick the orders and have them ready on Thursdays.



The Food Co-op is run by community volunteers, ranging in age from 10 to 80.

fund raising committee held a benefit in April to raise initial funds for the Co-op, and will be having a rummage festival the second week in May. The older people do the weekly price checking so that the Co-op buys the needed items at the lowest cost. Another group of co-op members picks up the items from the wholesalers and farmers, at the same time looking for a wider variety of items for the next week's orders. The children of several co-op families, under the supervision of volunteer Jackie Roginski, and others pick out the orders and have them ready for the members on Thursdays. Another group of volunteers makes deliveries to the senior citizen members in the Co-op.

At present 200 families make up the membership of the Southside People's Food Co-op. Suzanne Ruff, food co-op coordinator, points out that membership is not confined to the Southside; "We encourage people from all over the city to join."

Members can order eight to ten items each week, such as eggs and potatoes (available every week), bananas, apples, oranges, carrots, cabbage, several kinds of canned vegetables, soups and dry goods. The food is bought in bulk and broken down according to each family's order. The items offered are all basic necessities in the community.

According to Ms. Ruff, spokesperson for the Southside People's Food Co-op, "Large supermarkets spend a lot of money on advertising, constantly explaining why food prices have to be raised. The Southside People's Food Co-op is constantly struggling to keep prices lower."

The Co-op provides a model in building a community structure that is capable of controlling food prices for the benefit of poor and oppressed people and which can focus its attention and energy on solving other problems in the community such as housing, health care, employment and education as well.

Wisconsin Gas Company Stick-up

(Milw., Wis.) "If you don't freeze to death the gas company will make sure you bleed to death. It was like putting a ribbon on my coffin." These were the words of an AFDC mother with six children as she left the Wisconsin Gas Company's downtown Milwaukee office. She had just "made arrangements" to payoff a \$359 gas bill.

Last November the Public Service Commission

(PSC) adopted an emergency "no shut-off" period for the 120 days from December 1, 1976 to March 31, 1977. This was done so that no one would freeze to death. While this made it possible for thousands of people to survive the winter, 25,000 people were faced with April 1 shut-offs:

Community residents have dealt with the shut-off notices in several ways. While most made arrangements by phone or in person, one senior Citizen wrote the gas company a letter explaining she could only send \$10 a month to make up for what she owed; "I got tired of going down there and getting badgered until I accepted their terms." Some have tried to get on the "budget plan in order to equalize payments for the entire year. Many were told they couldn't do this until back bills were paid. Others who could not meet the gas company's demands have been forced to move to flats where they could put the account in another family member's name or where the landlord paid the gas. One successful tactic for getting bills lowered or delayed is to file a formal complaint because, for example, meters were not read the entire winter or estimates were ridiculously high. For welfare recipients, the return of the voucher system looms ahead as a mixed blessing-though payments will be made, it will be the welfare department deciding how much and when to pay.

While the PSC order gave thousands of people some security over winter, it gave the utilities time to load their guns for one of Wisconsin's biggest stick-ups. In February, the Wisconsin Gas Company announced their 1976 profits as



The Wisconsin Gas Company's profit for 1976 was \$12.5 million, a 20% increase over 1975.

\$12.5 million, a 20% increase over 1975, when earnings were "only" \$10.4 million. These profits came from rate hikes approved by the PSC after the gas company bellyached that they did not have enough money to search for more gas. Gas companies also explained that the colder the weather, the more money they make.

The poor and oppressed communities can no longer be held up to such blackmail. In this day and age technology has made natural gas a necessity which cannot be denied at any time of the year. The PSC has to be made accountable so that gas for heating and cooking comes before profits for the utility companies. O

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Resistance To 21 Plan Grows

This month KEEP STRONG presents a round-up highlighting the growing movement in Chicago to stop this city's masterplan to move the majority Black, Latino and poor and working White population out. As KEEP STRONG goes to press, Bilandic has announced 13 communities slated for commercial renewal projects. The city plans to use community development money to acquire and clear land for private development in such areas as Marquette Park, Albany Park and West Rogers Park.

Due to charges that the city violated federal guidelines, the U.S. Department of Commerce has delayed approval of Chicago's Overall Economic Development Plan, submitted last November. Even so, the Chicago 21 Plan is rapidly advancing. Early this month, the Dearborn Park Corporation filed an application with the city council to change the zoning in the south loop. The corporation wants to begin construction of its "walled city" for the upper class late this summer. Opposition and resistance to the 21 Plan is mounting throughout Chicago communities to the extent that the Dearborn Park Corp. convened a secret meeting for community leaders "who have not yet taken a position on the Chicago 21 Plan." Under the city law, a public hearing on the proposed Dearborn Park project must be held in the next 60 days.

Meanwhile, the Coalition To Stop the Chicago 21 Plan has served notice on the U.S. Department of Commerce that if an answer to their charges is not received shortly, they will take their charges into federal court to stop the federal money designated for Chicago.D

Kenwood-Oakland Demands Funds For Their Neighborhood

On April 5 at the Martin Luther King High School in Chicago's Kenwood-Oakland community, one of the city's poorest Black neighborhoods, representatives from Grand Boulevard and Kenwood-Oakland Community Organization (KOCO) presented plans for how Chicago ought to spend \$61 million in community development funds. KOCO executive director Bob Lucas pointed out that CD funds always go into redevelopment projects along the lake and in South Shore, but never into Kenwood-Oakland where unemployment among youth is as high as 60%. KOCO submitted a comprehensive community plan calling for community development money to be used for housing rehabilitation, code enforcement and low-interest loans for owner-occupied buildings. KOCO and community residents plan to follow up with city planning director Lew Hill to make sure that their community receives funds this year. O

Near North Demands Jobs

On Chicago's near northside, more than 125 residents attended a special community development hearing on April 12 at the Sojourner Truth Primary School, 1443 N. Ogden. Representatives from area groups including the Chicago Housing Tenants Organization, Flannery Senior Health Clinic, Tranquility Housing Coalition and the Tranquility Memorial Community Organization offered proposals. Marion Stamps, speaking on behalf of the Tranquility Memorial Community Organization, called on the city to use community development money to create public service jobs so unemployed people could



Opposition and resistance to the 21 Plan is mounting throughout Chicago communities.

rehabilitate abandoned and burned out housing on the near northside. Ms. Stamps charged the city with investing funds exclusively in Cabrini Green and Lincoln Park for elaborate security and "service" programs, while the rest of the near north community deteriorates. A comprehensive people's plan submitted by Tranquility proposes \$1,129,500 to be spent for low-income housing rehabilitation, improved lighting and sidewalks for the Flannery Senior apartments, an expanded senior citizen nutritional program and a senior citizen escort service. The plan also proposes that a nearly abandoned warehouse at Ogden and North Avenue be converted into a multi-service center for area residents.O

International Shopping Plaza Planned For Uptown

Sources indicate that the Department of Development and Planning (DDP) will recommend that community development funds be used to purchase land at Sheridan Road and Wilson Avenue in Uptown. A plan supported by the IRMCO Corp. and the Uptown Chamber of Commerce calls for that area to be redeveloped as an international shopping plaza.D

FIGHTING CITY HALL

Low Vote Turnout In Chicago Mayoral Primary

(Chicago, Ill.) Charges were widespread that a "gangster-like" atmosphere and widespread corruption dominated the Democratic mayoral primary elections here last month in which the winner, machine candidate Michael Bilandic, received fewer votes than any machine candidate in the past 20 years.

State Senator Harold Washington, who received a total of over 77,000 votes in the mayoral primary, carried five Southside wards.

The election demonstrated the declining



State Senator Harold Washington campaigning in the Uptown community.

strength of the city's regular Democratic Party organization. In spite of the continued stranglehold the machine has worked hard to maintain in the Black community and the lack of support from the traditionally independent wards, 86 per cent of Senator Washington's votes came from 16 Southside wards and seven Westside wards, signaling the decline in influence the Democratic machine faces in this city's predominant and growing Black wards.

In a showing that surprised no one, Pucinski, a Daley machine candidate for the last 20 years who felt betrayed by the organization's choice of Bilandic as its mayoral candidate, received 32 per cent of the vote. The core of Pucinski's support was the 70,000 votes he received from the six northwest side wards he once represented for four terms in Congress.

The northside White liberal independent movement which strongly supported Alderman William Singer two years ago in his mayoral bid against Daley, shied away from their first opportunity to vote for a candidate who represented a real alternative to Chicago's machine politics. Rather than vote for Washington, many stayed safely at home. Others threw their support to Pucinski. Meanwhile, Washington received surprising support from the northside poor White community.

The most revealing fact of the election was the low turnout for the regular Democratic Party-endorsed candidate Bilandic. Bilandic received more than 95,000 votes less than Daley received in the 1975 elections. O

N.Y.C. Takes Another Step Toward "Planned Shrinkage"

(N.Y.C., N.Y.) In Mayor Beame's latest measure to avoid the "fiscal crisis" in New York City, city-held mortgages on public housing are being sold to private investors. The selling of mortgages on city-financed Mitchell-Lama public housing is another phase in the completion of the takeover of New York by the banks.

There are 150 Mitchell-Lama developments in New York City, housing more than 50,000



The selling of Mitchell-Lama public housing would force 50,000 low and middle-income families from the city.

families. They were set up in the early 1950's to provide decent housing to low-income families at reasonable rents. While the idea made a fortune for the architects, construction companies and real estate developers involved, it was a failure for the tenants. The buildings were built quickly with many structural defects. In one development, Franklin Plaza in East Harlem, the balconies fell off into the East River; three thousand ceilings in Lindsey Park collapsed and had to be rebuilt. And in another building all of the plumbing had to be completely redone.

Mitchell-Lama began as publicly financed, low-income housing. By 1969 the rents were up to \$50 a room per month, an increase of 80% in rent. This means that a four-room apartment would rent for \$200 a month. Now, the rents have been raised to \$70 a room or \$280 a month for a four-room apartment. Much of the rent increase is due to the expense of repairs on faulty construction. There have been many organized struggles in the various Mitchell-Lama housing projects, and many of the tenants have refused to pay the rent increases.

The city's new scheme to avoid "default," is to sell second mortgages on Mitchell-Lama develop-

ments to private investors. Of the 150 developments, 114 are up for sale. The law that made this action legal was approved in March after being pushed through the legislature by Governor Carey under "Message of Urgency." The bill didn't have to go through a public hearing.

The city will still hold first mortgages, but the second mortgages will be sold to private investors. The private investors can get \$1.2 billion worth of mortgages for \$410 million. While the city will have the responsibility to pay for all repairs, facility upkeep, etc. of the buildings. The private investors are guaranteed by the federal government to receive their mortgage payments. This has aroused the interest of many real estate speculators since for a relatively small investment they are guaranteed a profit. Already, since last month, four of the developments have been sold (one to the First National Bank of Chicago). The federal agency H.U.D. becomes the supervisor over the housing developments that have been sold. This further removes the local tenants from any kind of control over their housing.

The sale of Mitchell-Lama housing has been kept very quiet, and is being done individually, behind closed doors, not to draw attention to it. The long term effect of these sales will be disastrous to the residents of Mitchell-Lamas. The city won't be able to pay the mortgage payments and also put money into the Mitchell-Lama reserve fund for repairs. That means the rents will have to go up again, forcing out the working people that still live there. Also, since the city won't be able to continue its share of the financial obligations, the second mortgage holders will gain full control of the property.

In that case, housing which was built and financed by public funds for low and middle-income people, will become privately-controlled housing for upper-income people. For \$410 million to payoff short-term noteholders, the city government is embarking on a plan which would force 50,000 low and middle-income families from the city.D

Save The Natsl

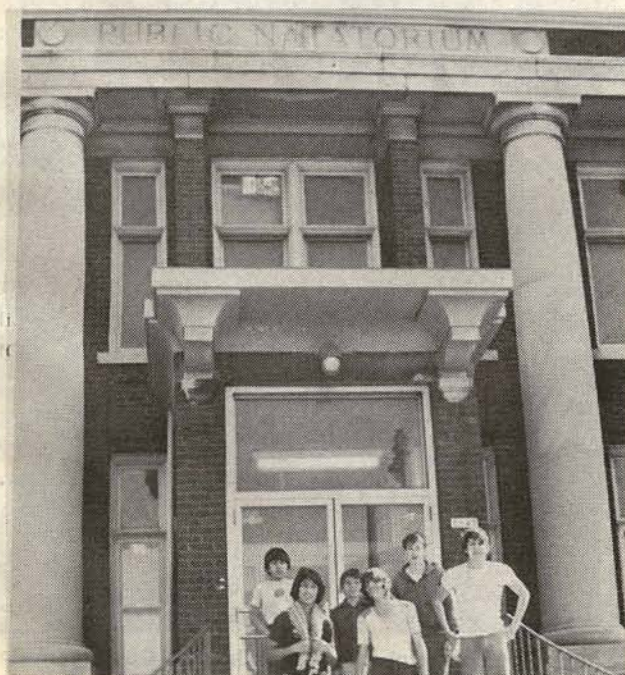
(Milw., Wis.) Everyday groups of children and older citizens are seen walking briskly, towels in hand, toward the familiar 60-year old brick structure - "The Nat" - at 16th and Greenfield. There are five indoor, year-round swimming

pools, Natatoriums, or simply "Nats" as they are called, which serve as recreational and health facilities in Milwaukee's central city. Three southside and two northside pools were slated for destruction by a 13-3 vote of the common council last March 22. To stop this latest move in the implementation of the Milwaukee masterplan, a campaign is underway to "Save the Nats."

The Nats, now used mostly as swimming pools, were originally built between 1894 and 1917 as public baths because few of Milwaukee's flats and cottages had adequate plumbing at that time. Today, within a mile of each of the pools, over 1,000 residences still have inadequate bathing facilities:

Young and old alike flock to the Nats for swimming, with a mere ten cent charge for towels and suits. In fact, it is the youth who are spearheading the current "Save the Nats" drive. Realizing that they will be forced onto the streets with few other recreational activities available, young children have taken to the streets with petitions calling for the continued operation and improvement of the Natatoriums over the next ten years.

The campaign was started by the "Friends of the Nats" and is being carried on by several community groups including the Intercommunal Survival Committee and the Southside People's Food Co-op. Activities have included research, meeting with public officials and conducting neighborhood demonstrations and meetings. The



To stop the move to destroy five swimming pools, a campaign is underway to "Save the Nats."

petitions and accompanying resolution to extend the life of the Natatoriums 'til September of this year are aimed at Alderpersons Frank, Kukor, Lanser, Voss and Kondziella who have all voted consistently to tear down the swimming facilities. By stalling the destruction of the buildings, community activists hope to be able to turn the city's plan around with a people's plan to fix up, improve and develop new programs for the Nats.

Milwaukee's common council, lead by Southside Alderman Wayne Frank (8th district), has used the age of the facilities, their need for repair, high operating costs and declining attendance as excuses to tear down the Nats.

Richard Yahr, a spokesperson for "Friends of the Nats," charged that the city has used off-season attendance records to justify the claim of decreased usage. He also charged that since his group asked the Department of Bridges and Buildings to itemize its \$2.5 million repair figure five months ago, they have received no answer. Longtime residents recall that all these excuses have been rejected by Milwaukee's poor and oppressed communities time and time again since the first attempt to close the Nats in 1944.

Community leaders have argued over the years that proper maintenance, publicity and special recreational programs would increase use of the Nats. Except for a few brief periods the city has ignored the communities' desires. Special programs suggested recently were swimming lessons and service programs conducted by bi-lingual instructors. The three Nats located in neighborhoods with large Latino populations have no Latino staff.

The latest effort to close the Natatoriums dates back to 1974 when Alderman Frank raised the issue and proposed replacing them with two new "centrally" located facilities. By early 1975 the common council had approved the building of the two new facilities, applying for \$2.8 million in Community Development (CDA) funds. The CDA funds are federal funds supposedly earmarked for community projects with direct input from the people themselves. Instead of a centrally located swimming pool, the new southside Natatorium is being built at 16th and Cleveland, inaccessible to public transportation and on the edge of an industrial area, rather than in the middle of a low-income recreational area.

The removal of recreational facilities such as the Nats is consistent with the city's masterplan to disperse the poor and oppressed communities and reduce our potential strength in numbers. O

Statement On The Seventh Anniversary Of The Ise

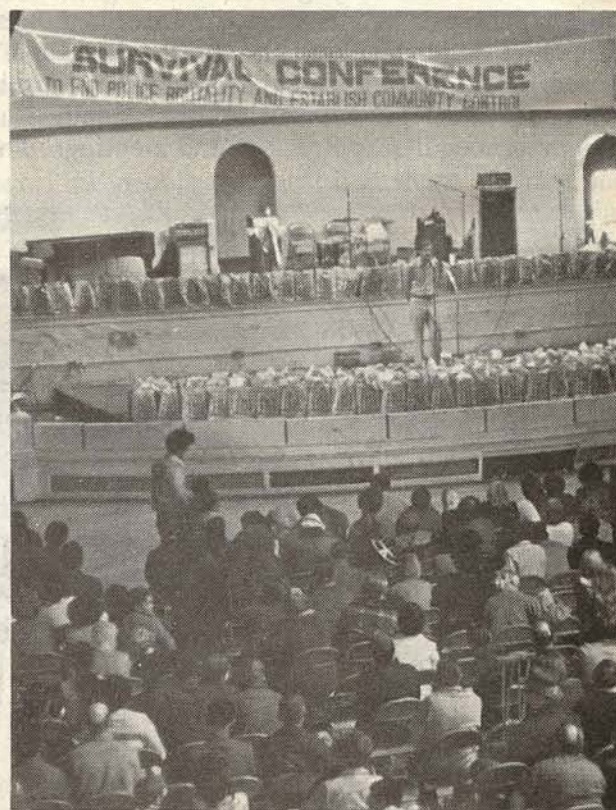
Today, seven years after the founding of the Intercommunal Survival Committee, we are even more certain that such an organization needs to exist. It is obvious now that Carter's election changes nothing for the better. Poor and working people are still faced with too little to survive on and too much to put up with. The government still terrorizes with secret and uniformed police forces. On the other hand, oppressed people around the world have won great victories, forcing the U.S. empire more into the corner, and our people here are more aware. We are glad that we organized ourselves seven years ago, but there is much more that must be accomplished.

The ISC was organized because there was a need for it among poor and working people across this country, and for no other reason. It was the intention of this committee to begin building a structured political vehicle which could represent in action the interest of poor and working White people, bring them in unity with their natural allies in the Black and Latino communities and develop the organizational backbone necessary to change conditions of oppression that still continue today.

We had learned a negative lesson from experience: there existed no permanent political organization to fight for the interest of poor and working people. The political parties and the government they operate collect taxes from us and require us to fight their wars, but they don't represent us. The unions collect dues from us but act in our interest only if we force them to through rank and file opposition. Community organizations and coalitions had to be constantly won back from leaders who were bought off by the system. No permanent political organization represented us, spoke for us, acted for us,

steadfastly, every day of every year.

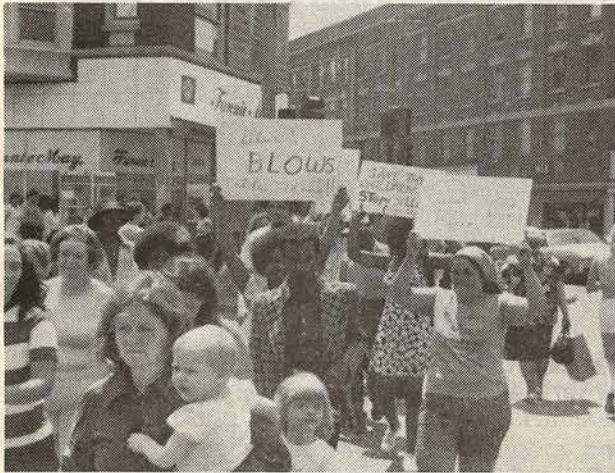
Then we learned a positive lesson from the Black Panther Party. Such an organization was possible. The Black Panther Party, born under fire from the repressive police and government forces, proved that it was in fact a structured political vehicle serving the interests of the people. It became a permanent organization that was to effective political and social action "like a shadow is to a man."



Oct. 8, 1972 Uptown People'S Survival Conference to End Police Brutality and Establish Community Control where 3,000 bags of groceries were distributed.



Uptown Tenants' Survival Union members make presentation to monthly membership meeting.



A 1975 community initiated anti-glue campaign forced a temporary halt to the sale of toxic glue in several neighborhood stores.

While the Black Panther Party was a party of Black people only, we found that, contrary to what the "establishment told us, the Black Panther Party *was* interested in ending the system of oppression for all people and interested in unity. Centuries of racism made separate organizations necessary for a time. But the Party urged us to form an organization to work in close parallel in the poor and working White community. That was the birth of the Intercommunal Survival Committee.

This oppressive government and economic system has created a situation where the poor White, working for slave wages or on welfare, is nearly invisible. The television shows, the newspapers, the magazines, the movies all would make us believe that only a few White people are poor. As a consequence, many of us have been made to feel powerless. But the facts are otherwise.

Millions of those who earn just enough to

survive are White, and half of those on welfare are White. It is only blinding prejudice and the mostly fruitless hope that a White skin allows you to get over that has very often caused the poor and working White to "go it alone." This very powerful system chooses to refuse to admit that so much poverty exists, and out of shame that we do not deserve, we agree with them, allowing them to deny that we ourselves exist! The fact is that, united with Black people and Latinos, we are together the mightiest force in this country. But we need united organization, permanent organization, a permanent political vehicle that persists in the face of repression and organizes consistently in the interest of all poor and working people.

Huey P. Newton, founder of the Black Panther Party; defined the characteristics such a truly revolutionary vehicle must have to survive repression:

"First of all, there is a small but dedicated cadre of workers who are willing to devote their full time to the goals of the organization. Secondly, there is a distinct organized structure through which the cadre can function. It is this



"We found that the Black Panther Party was interested in ending the system of oppression for all people and interested in unity."

combination of structure and dedicated cadre which can maintain the machinery for meeting the people's needs. In this way a printing press can be maintained to review the events of the day and interpret them in a manner which serves the people. Information can be circulated about the daily phenomena to inform the people of their true meaning. Programs of service can be carried out to deliver to the people the basic needs that are not met elsewhere. —"

"A cadre and a structure, however, are not what make the political vehicle a revolutionary one. It is the revolutionary concepts which define and interpret phenomena, and establish the goals toward which the political vehicle will work. A revolutionary vehicle is in fact a revolutionary concept set into motion by a dedicated cadre through a particular organized structure ... "

"Such a vehicle can survive repression because it can move in the necessary manner at the appropriate time. It can go underground if the conditions require and it can rise up again. But it will always be motivated by love and dedication to the interests of the oppressed communities. Therefore the people will insure its survival, for only in that survival are their needs serviced. The structural and organized vehicle will guarantee the weathering of the test of internal and external contradictions."



The ISC offered its cadre, facilities and programs to ex-coal miners and their wives and widows who organized the Chicago Area Black Lung Association.



The annual Fred Hampton-Mark Clark Christmas Survival Program has become a community event in Uptown.



The Each One Teach One Program, begun in the winter of 1977, is a survival program for the minds of our children.

Following the example of the Black Panther Party in the Black community, we dared to begin to create a structured political vehicle in the poor and working White community. The basic cadre was recruited and steeled in daily practice. The structure was assembled and basic services were established that tied the cadre to the community. It was through this contact that ideas, gathered from the people themselves, were brought together and systematized, so that we began to get a more coherent understanding of our basic situation. A program of action could now be projected, tested and refined, again and again, until our movement is successful in attaining social justice.

Among the thousands of people we have met and become involved with there are many who are not ready or not able to become one of the "dedicated cadre of workers, willing to devote their full time to the goals of the organization." Still, many of these share in a commitment to build an organization that can act steadfastly in the people's interests. These general members fill out the structure of the revolutionary political vehicle. Organized along the line of the 10-10-10 principle, the general members tie the committee closer to the people and extend its structure deep into the plants and communities.



For the last two years the ISC has had a summer free lunch program. In July, 1976 the children who attended the program, their parents and workers demanded "We want our lunches back" when a state agency closed it down for two days..

Guided by dialectical materialism, which is simply a method for analyzing problems and developing solutions, the ISC is becoming a vehicle that provides backbone to our daily struggle, keeping the movement going when individuals or other less thorough organizations falter. The purpose of the ISC is not, of course, to support all the ideas of poor and oppressed people. We attempt to be more like a thermostat than a thermometer. A thermometer gets hot when the weather is hot and cold when the weather is cold. It reflects *whatever* people may say. The thermostat is a device to improve the situation. If the room gets too cold, the thermostat acts to warm it up. So, like a thermostat, the ISC attempts to develop solutions to problems that stand in the way of our people's struggle for social justice. The ideas for the correct solutions to our problems usually lie among the people, but they must be gathered up in a systematic way, then applied to the problem.

If the ISC were more like a thermometer then we would mirror the action of some Whites in our community who want to go to war against Black people forced into their neighborhoods by urban dislocation programs. We would join in the fight. But acting more like the thermostat, we gain an understanding of who is responsible for the dislocation of Black people in the first place and develop mechanisms to make this known throughout the White community, so that unity can be achieved.

"Like a shadow to a man." This is our goal. Wherever there is a struggle - in the communities, in the factories, in the political arena - we will be there in the interest of the

people, because our method of work and our structure keeps us tied to the interest of the people. Our daily connection and love for the people in the poor and working White community will keep us from becoming isolated or from living in an ivory tower. On the other hand, the Committee's hard and fast disciplined unity with the Black Panther Party makes us constantly aware of the leading role Black people play in the movement for social justice. The ISC in this way becomes a resistant element to the racism and prejudice that so often splits and destroys people's movements.

We have learned to thrive on contradictions. Attempts by the police to infiltrate us internally have tightened our structure. Attempts by the police and other reactionaries to discredit us in the community have forced us to stay among the people and give a true accounting of our purpose just to survive. Attacks on our members and supporters have added new supporters to our ranks. Defections by some who became confused or weakened in their discipline and commitment, only clarified and strengthened those who remain.

We believe there will come a time when the structured political vehicle we need will cross deep into the Black, Latino and poor and working White communities. It will be the backbone of a massive political movement that will surely turn the tide and bring this country into line with the trend of progressive people's victory everywhere. Our task is to work now, with both humility and courage, so that such a structured vehicle will be there to insure that a massive people's movement will be successful.

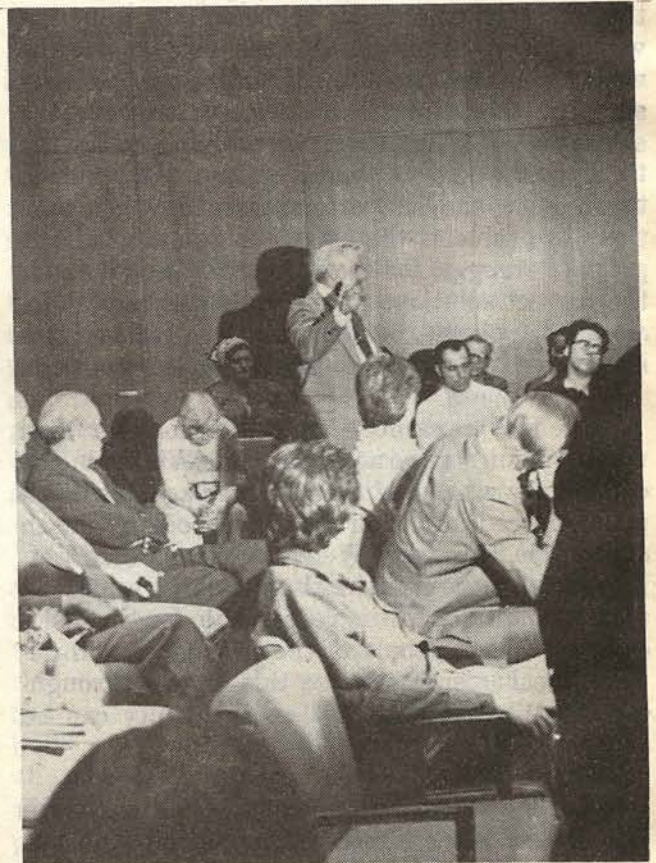
Chicago Board of Health Blocks Uptown Health Clinic

Calling for the resignation of Chicago Board of Health Commissioner Murray Brown, over 50 representatives from the Chicago Area Black Lung Association and the Uptown Tenants Survival Union held a press conference in front of Mayor Bilandic's office on Monday, April 18. Charging that Murray Brown is the only obstacle standing in the way of a new comprehensive health clinic with a special black lung facility, the groups demanded that the mayor appoint someone to replace Brown who would be concerned about delivering health care services to the neighborhoods of Chicago.

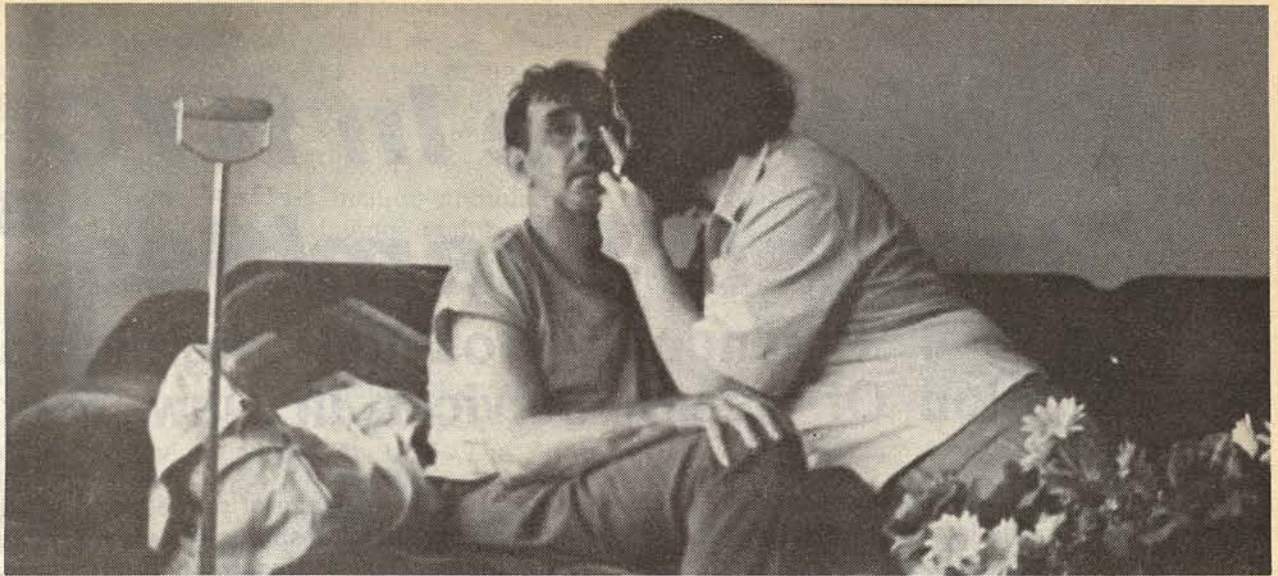
Representatives from both organizations had been meeting with doctors and officials of Cook County Hospital for many months and were close to agreement on setting up a comprehensive health clinic in the Uptown community. This clinic was to be set up and staffed by Cook County Hospital with already existing federal funds. The policies of the clinic were to be determined by a board which would be made up of community residents. The clinic was to be equipped with special facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of black lung disease. These black lung victims who have had a special problem finding anyone in the Chicago area who has the knowledge to treat black lung were to have special representation on the community board to deal with their special problems. The only detail left to be worked out was agreement from the Chicago Board of Health which also operates a health clinic in the area.

In his original statement opposing the creation of this community health clinic, Brown stated that Uptown already had an over abundance of

health care services, so therefore, the clinic was not needed. He also stated that a special black lung clinic was not necessary because there were no former coal miners with black lung disease in Chicago, a fact obviously disputed by the 50 or so former miners present at the press conference.



A Black Lung Association member responds to Board of Health director Murray Brown.



Several doctors from Cook County made home visits to black lung victims last month.

In a statement read by Lawrence Zornes, Chairman of the Chicago Area Black Lung Association, an organization of hundreds of former coal miners in the Chicago area, he said: "We do not understand why Murray Brown, head of the Board of Health, would oppose this desperately needed clinic. We do not understand why he would deny that we, the disabled coal miners of Uptown and other Chicago neighborhoods, exist when so many of us have died without receiving the benefits that are rightfully ours or the kind of health care that we need. We think that a man who would deny that we exist and deny that we should be helped should not be in charge of the city's public health system."

Citing a long list of members who have died unable to receive proper medical care and of some members who were sick in bed unable to breathe well enough to attend the press conference, Mr. Zornes described the difficulty they have finding doctors in the Chicago area who know anything at all about black lung disease; "After many months of looking we finally found a group of doctors who are willing to work with us, and now Mr. Brown is trying to sabotage our efforts. Clearly the problem is not that Murray Brown is unaware that we exist. The real problem is that he does not believe that we have the right to exist."

In a statement describing the overall problem of health care in the Uptown community, members of the Uptown Tenants Survival Union said: "Brown's opposition to the Cook County Hospital establishing a badly needed comprehensive health center in Uptown is based allegedly on an overabundance of health resources in the

area. This is an outrageous statement. In fact, Uptown is occupied by several hospitals with suburban doctors serving suburban patients that turn away patients with medical cards or charge outrageous prices to the working poor. Uptown is also blessed with storefront doctors whose remedy for every illness is valium and darvon.

"Uptown is the location of one of the Board of Health's so-called comprehensive health centers that forms a part of what Bilandic calls his 'magnificent city-wide health system.' The existence of this Board of Health center is the real reason Brown is holding up the Cook County clinic in Uptown, because it will show that the Board of Health clinic is a worthless fraud and a waste of money.

"It would be rational for the chief health officer of a city to welcome a new health resource into an area and to work cooperatively to integrate services the city offered with the new services offered. Why is Brown stopping the new clinic?

"We can only conclude that the city does not want to provide the services in this area which will stabilize the area for low and moderate-income families. It has been the city's practice to "urban renew" the present residents out of the neighborhood and make way for speculators and developers to build new Sandburg villages. The Board of Health clinic in Uptown is simply a front which allowed the city to receive federal money to build a new building. It never intended to and never has provided a comprehensive health center for the neighborhood."'

Health Care In NYC

// Planned Shambles //

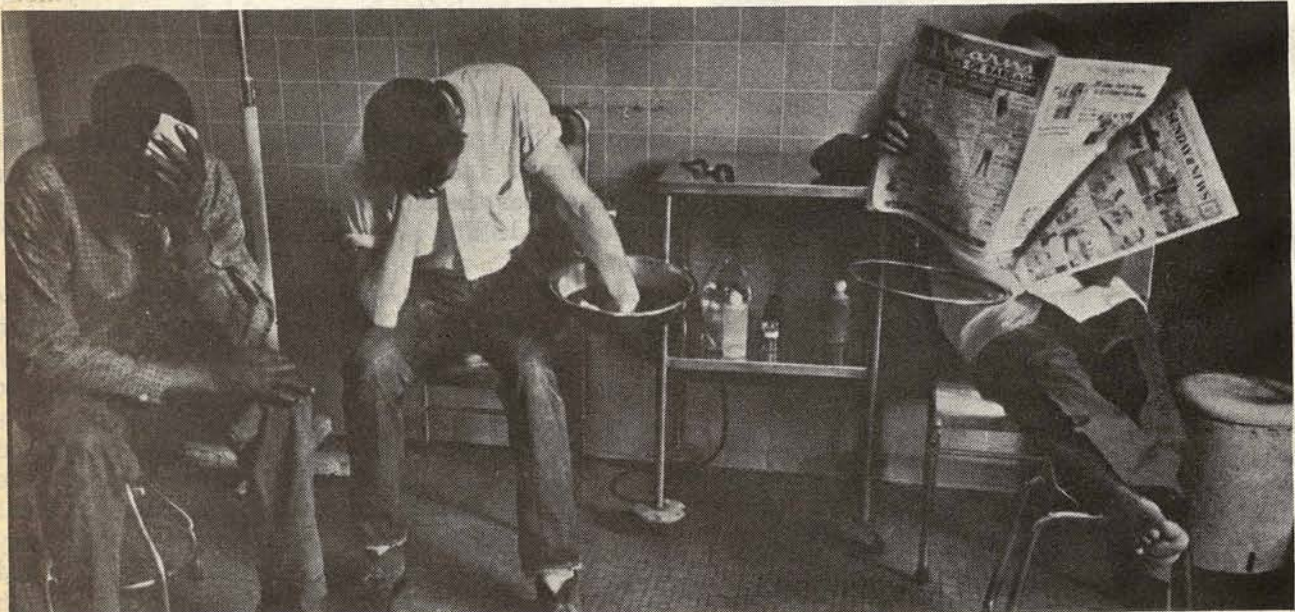
Closing Of Greenpoint Hospital Highlights Destruction Of Health Services In New York

The municipal hospitals of New York City have been compared to the latest horror show. A day at your local emergency room has replaced "The Texas Chain Saw Massacre" as the terrifying event of the year. The worst is yet to come. A glimpse of the future reveals the most blood chilling happening of all - the reducing of the New York City hospital system to "planned shambles."

Massive cutbacks due to the city's so-called financial crisis have taken an already bad hospital system to the point of mayhem. In the last two years four hospitals have been closed down; the in-patient and emergency room services of Sydenham and Gouverneur were cut; Belvis Neighborhood Family Care Center was closed. "G" building of Sea View Hospital was closed; entire wards in some hospitals have been shut down; while in others, beds cannot be used

because of the shortage of nurses; and services and personnel in all hospitals have been reduced. For example, Harlem Hospital patients now wait two hours instead of 45 minutes to get a prescription filled. At Coney Island Hospital three of seven operating rooms are no longer being used. At Kings County Hospital, X-ray services in the emergency room have been eliminated on weekends.

Every hospital reports long delays for appointments, insufficient services in the emergency rooms and inadequate coverage for in-patients. Over 8,000 employees have been laid off and close to 3,000 beds closed. Only two new hospitals have replaced the ones that have closed. Furthermore, there is the possibility that four more will close. Two of these, Greenpoint and Cumberland Hospitals, will be replaced by the new Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center.



The emergency room and outpatient departments at Greenpoint Hospital are overcrowded, inefficient and have long waiting times.

Greenpoint Hospital, built over 60 years ago, was once held as the model community-oriented hospital. Designed to serve the needs of the community, its 174 beds are small in number compared to other municipal hospitals. Its basic services include medical, surgery, obstetrics, gynecology, pediatrics, ambulatory care and a pharmacy. Special services include ambulance, dental, family planning, methadone maintenance and venereal disease. Some of these basic services like OB and GYN have already been phased out.

The new Woodhull Hospital, located at Flushing and Broadway in Williamsburg, is scheduled to open sometime in 1978. The \$100 million, 10 story complex is the first municipal hospital to have private rooms. The building design, used for the first time in this part of the country, was planned to "accommodate changing patterns of health care" and can be easily altered. Woodhull will feature the latest in highly specialized services and technological equipment.

Together, Greenpoint and Cumberland Hospitals have 508 beds available for general care. At Woodhull there will be only 430. Woodhull will also feature a mental health section which will further reduce the amount of beds available for general care use.

The Health and Hospital Corporation (HHC) which runs the municipal hospital system claims that waste, inefficiency and duplication of services must be eliminated in order to save millions of dollars. They say that Greenpoint Hospital is obsolete, that there are too many empty beds and that it is duplicating services with Cumberland and other voluntary (privately owned) hospitals in the area. They gave the same reasons for closing Cumberland.

Community residents explain that the empty beds in Greenpoint reflect the poor quality service of the hospital. As one resident pointed out, "People avoid Greenpoint if they can." While some beds are empty at Greenpoint, the emergency room and out patient departments (O-D) are overcrowded, inefficient and have long waiting times. In 1970 Greenpoint had 57,383 emergency room visits; while in 1974, it had 72,100 emergency room visits, an increase of 25%. In 1970, there were 130,820 OPD visits while in 1974 there were 249,200 OPD visits, an increase of 91%. This reflects the fact that because of Greenpoint's lack of specialized equipment and poor quality service, planned hospital stays are avoided at Greenpoint, while the day to day services and emergency room are

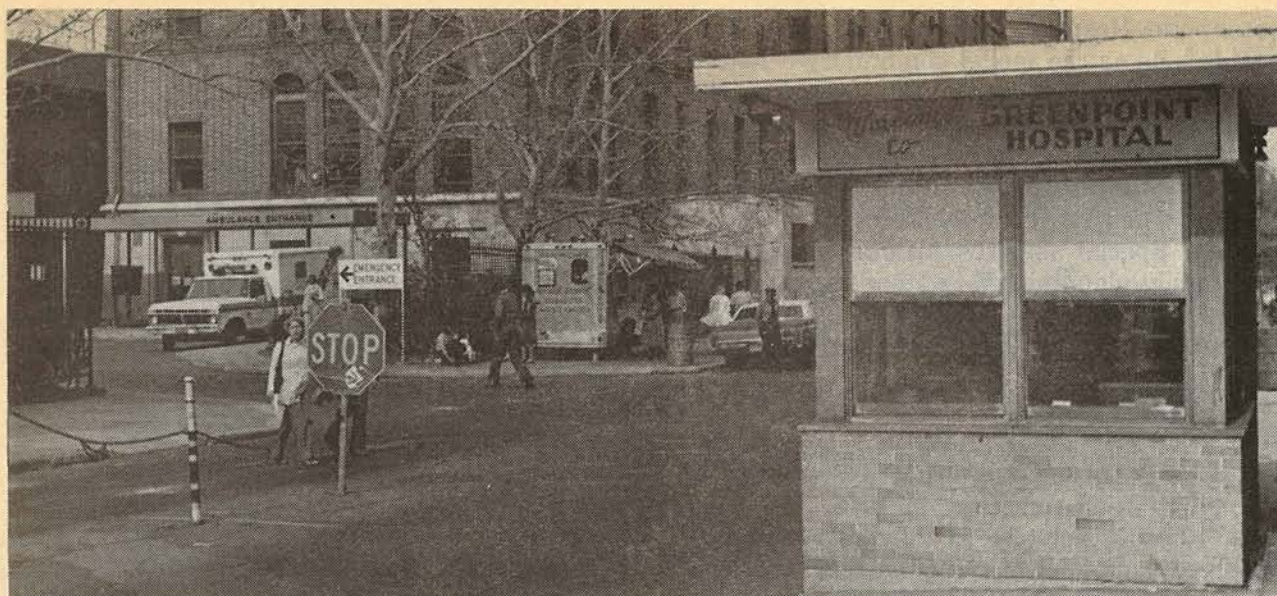


Without quality services and the staff to run them, a new hospital building will not guarantee decent health care.

increasingly being relied on.

Recent trends in health care help to explain why this is happening. The municipal hospital system has always been inferior to the voluntary hospital system. The more expensive voluntary hospitals used and still use the municipal hospitals for training their doctors and students and for research and teaching. The voluntary hospitals guaranteed good health care for the upper classes, while the municipals used for the city's poor and working population held no such guarantees. With the introduction of prepayment plans like Blue Cross and the enactment of medicare and medicaid in 1966, many patients who were tired of poor quality service in the municipals, could now afford to go to the voluntaries.

The voluntary hospitals, in competition with each other, bought more and more specialized equipment as the money flowed in. By 1975 a hospital stay that cost \$311 in 1965, had reached \$1,117. Government expenditures for medicare and medicaid began at \$7 billion nationwide in 1965, and reached \$41 billion. In 1975, alone, hospital service charges jumped 13%, higher than any other basic necessities. The costs, of course, were passed on to the patients in the form of higher insurance costs, reduced insurance coverage, reduced services and the reduction by the government of the amount of people eligible for medicaid. This in turn began to force a significant number of patients back to the municipal hospitals. As a result, there is a



Greenpoint Hospital was once considered the model community-oriented hospital. Now it is slated to be closed.

proposal to close 30 smaller voluntary hospitals to build up the the amount of patients in the larger voluntaries.

Greenpoint/Williamsburg residents are concerned that with the growing number of people depending on the municipals and with continued planned cutbacks, a combining of two overburdened and poor quality hospitals into one will be a disaster. An article in the *New York Times* from August, 1976 backs this up. In the article doctors, nurses, workers and patients blasted the newly opened New Lincoln Hospital that replaced Old Lincoln and Fordham Hospitals in the South Bronx. One doctor quoted in the article said, "... because it's so poorly staffed, it's just not functioning." Without quality services and the staff to run them a new building will not guarantee decent health care.

During the last decades the bankers and corporation heads became increasingly alarmed that the city's majority Black, Puerto Rican and poor and working White people had the power to remove big business' hand-picked politicians. They were faced with the dilemma of either giving the people the means and the ability to live decent lives (which meant that business couldn't be making the profits it wanted) or to remove from the city large numbers of poor and low-income people. They chose the latter, and by 1969 city planners had come up with a masterplan for N.Y.C. Whole neighborhoods were written off, and large scale destruction of communities began.

The next step came in 1975. The banks decided

not to lend the city any more money. N.Y.C. was faced with the threat of going broke even though it had always paid its debts on time. In September of 1975, Wall St. finished its takeover of N.Y.C. with the creation of the Emergency Financial Control Board (EFCB) to run the city's finances. A board of eight unelected men, representing Wall St. interests, controlled the finances of a city of 7.5 million people.

In 1976 the EFCB forced the HHC to adopt a three year plan that will move the municipal hospitals closer and closer to being like the voluntary hospitals, highly specialized acute care institutions. The services that the city's poor and working population use and need the most will be increasingly abandoned. Bernard Weinstein, Executive Director of Bellevue Hospital, put it clearly, the municipal hospital system will be transformed to something "middle class people will want and will fight for.". The EFCB knew that increasingly bad city services (or no service at all) would help drive out those who depended on the services to survive.

The city of New York has become a testing ground for bankers and businessmen trying to find out if it's possible to cut back services, destroy neighborhoods and drive the city's poor and working people out. Both Woodhull and New Lincoln Hospital have been built in neighborhoods that are being destroyed by the city. Maybe they are not being built for the population who lives near them now and for all. Maybe city planners have development plans in mind for a higher income bracket to occupy these neighborhoods in 10 or 15 years. O

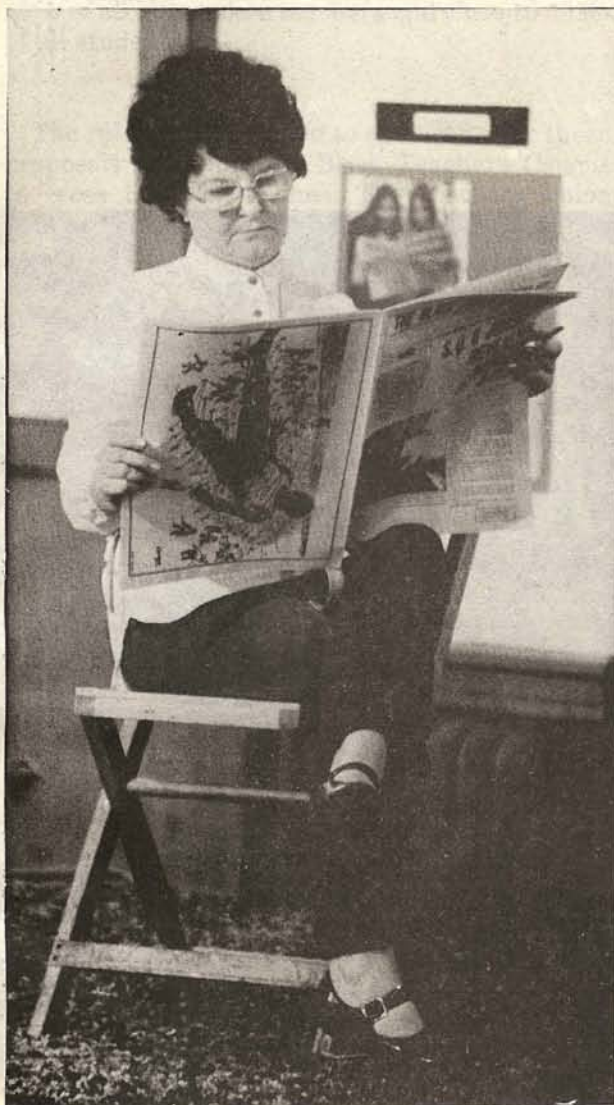
THE BLACK PANTHER

INTERCOMMUNAL NEWS SERVICE

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The Intercommunal Survival Committee celebrates the 10th anniversary of **THE BLACK PANTHER**.

This accomplishment is especially significant considering that the most repressive intelligence agencies the world has ever known, (CIA, FBI, IRS, and many more) singled out the Party paper as a number one priority to stop its circulation by sabotage, vandalism, arson, through the post office, airports - so many tricks tried and failed.

Even the desperate assassinations of Sam Napier, Distribution-Circulation Manager, murdered April 17, 1971 in New York City, and Walter "Toure" Pope, the circulation manager of the Southern California Chapter, murdered in 1969, did not stop the voice of **THE PANTHER**.

The ISC especially appreciates the rock firm principles of **THE BLACK PANTHER** to inform, educate and heighten the awareness of Black and oppressed communities; to interpret the often confusing events around us; and to mobilize people around their interests and concerns in order that we all, a truly human movement of the disenfranchised and dispossessed, might move forward with dignity and courage.

Although we are like grains of sand on the beach, our force is growing stronger as one by one we become educated to the realities of oppression and liberation. O

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE

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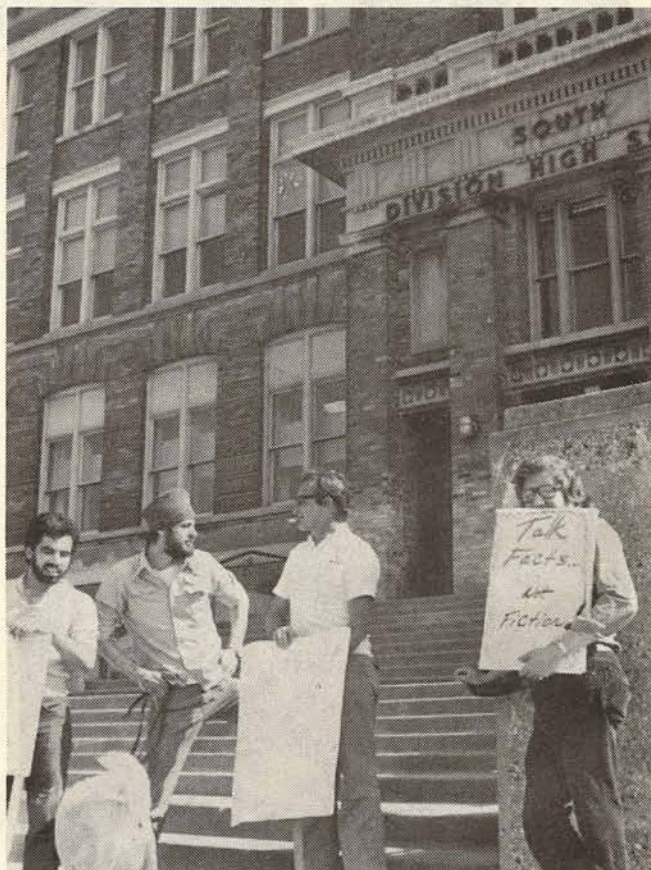
Milwaukee Teachers Strike

Public education in Milwaukee has come to a near standstill over the last month as a result of a strike by the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association (MTEA). Mounting evidence suggests that rather than being at odds with the school board, the teachers union is acting together with the Milwaukee school board to continue the policies which have created two separate and unequal school systems - one Black, Latino and poor White, the other middle and upper-class White.

It was these policies which prompted a federal suit and a subsequent desegregation order by federal judge John Reynolds. This order requires that two-thirds of the schools have 25-50% Black enrollments by September, 1977 and 11-21% Black teaching staffs by September, 1978. The high schools would be integrated by September, 1978 also. The court-ordered desegregation plan aims to integrate the schools by closing several Black schools, forcefully busing displaced Black students to outlying schools, while voluntarily attracting White students to newly created, inner city specialty and magnet schools.

Both the MTEA and the school board claim that class size, teacher transfers and seniority are the main issues of the strike. Yet many community observers say Judge Reynolds has the upper hand in deciding these issues because of their relationship to the desegregation order. Many have, therefore, concluded that the strike is an effort by both the school board and the teachers union to delay and disrupt the desegregation order and incite a racist reaction.

The school board's opposition to desegregation is clear by its continued and costly appeals. The MTEA leadership's opposition was demonstrated by its support of three winning incumbents from the school board's segregationist majority, including ringleader Anthony Busalacchi, in the



Many conclude that the strike is an effort by both the school board and the teachers' union to delay and disrupt the desegregation order and incite a racist reaction.

April 5 elections. Four Black candidates lost, including incumbent Clara New.

Recommendations of the Black teachers have been ignored by the MTEA Executive Committee. The caucus proposals include setting a one-third quota for Black teachers, accomplishing this through preferential hiring; speeding up faculty desegregation by establishment of dual

seniority lists for teacher transfers and promotions; requiring all future teachers to be city residents; and elimination of the social adjustment centers, claimed to be dumping grounds for "problem" students, most of whom are Black. The Black Teachers Caucus also demanded greater representation on the 20 member MTEA Executive Committee which now has only two Blacks and no Latinos, though Blacks make up 15% of all Milwaukee teachers and close to 40% of all students.

The refusal of the union to even consider these proposals prompted the Black Teachers Caucus to cross the picket lines. The teachers union responded with the formation of a "goon" squad to physically prevent Black teachers from entering the schools. Many observers fear the attack upon the Black teachers is only the first wave of violence against the Black community stemming from the angry and vocal reaction of White parents, and now teachers, to the desegregation order. Black parents, putting the education of their children ahead of any other issue, are sending their children to school in large numbers, thereby supporting the Black teachers.

In the poor and oppressed White community, few children are attending school because they are so understaffed. One mother put it this way, "I don't need to send my child to school so the principal can change T.V. stations from 'The Fonz' to 'Let's Make a Deal.'"

The main sentiment is, however, "It's the children who suffer the most." The children themselves have mixed views. Some enjoy the extra vacation - "The teachers never teach anything anyway. They just tell you what to do." Others are worried about having to make up days on Saturdays and in the summer, or not graduating on time.

To many parents the issues are confusing; "They're making a lot more money than I am and not working as hard," complained one foundry worker. "It would be different if the kids were learning something." A mother of seven angrily commented, "They're going to use the money that should be going to the kids' education to pay for the raise they're going to give to the teachers." As for the transfer issue, a young saleswoman pointed out, "I guess the teachers don't want to be shifted around anymore than the students want to be bussed," while a former parochial school teacher said that "teachers should be willing to take jobs in less desirable schools for greater equality." The only issue that



While public education has come to a near standstill in Milwaukee, the main sentiment is, "It's the children who suffer the most."

the teachers consistently got support for was that of limiting class size. "It's difficult to teach a class of 30 kids, especially when there are four or five reading and math levels in the class," said a teacher's aide in the bilingual-bicultural program.

Milwaukee ISC coordinator Richard Cohen points out:

"What direction the poor and oppressed White community's frustration with the strike takes could be the deciding factor on the extent of racist reaction when two-thirds of the schools are desegregated next fall. Widespread demonstrations of White parents and students erupted in the second week of the teachers' strike. While the anger of the White parents is justified, if notice is not taken that it is the Black community which has shown the most determination in continuing the education of the children, it will be possible for racist demagogues like the 'Concerned Citizens for Freedom and Justice' to step to the front of the demonstrations, blame the strike on desegregation and direct the parents' anger against the Black community." O

Judge Drops All ~B.L Conspiracy. Charges In Fred Hampton MurderCase

In one of the more amazing, unprecedented rulings in federal court history, Judge Samuel Perry last month dismissed charges against the FBI, former Cook County State's Attorney Edward Hanrahan and eight of the 15 police officers who were involved in the raid which led to the December 4 murders of Black Panther Party leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in 1969.

After 16 months of documentation and testimony put on by the plaintiffs, who are the families of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark and the seven survivors of the raid, Perry, 80, a native of Alabama, not only dismissed the case on most of the defendants but ordered the plaintiffs to pay court costs estimated by some to be as high as half a million dollars.

Perry's new trial order, in effect, dismissed the plaintiffs' basic contention in the case; that the FBI conspired with Hanrahan to assassinate Hampton, the popular young leader of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party. By leaving in the case only those seven police officers who admittedly fired their guns, Perry has ruled that the murders of Fred Hampton, 21, and Mark Clark, 22, were, at most, a case of police brutality.

In arguing the defendants' motion to dismiss their charges, attorneys for the plaintiffs, Jeffrey Haas and Flint Taylor, reminded the court of the hundreds of FBI documents that were entered into evidence, proving the (Counterintelligence Program) operation initiated by the federal agency against the Black Panther



FBI documents openly admit that the COINTELPRO operation's intent was to destroy the Party and neutralize particular leaders.

Party.. The documents openly admit that the operation's intent was to destroy the Party and "neutralize" particular leading individuals.

Evidence of attempts to incite Chicago gang leaders to attack the Party were openly found in the FBI's own documents. The attorneys went on to remind the aging judge that the evidence showed that the FBI had hired an agent provocateur, William O'Neal, and instructed him to infiltrate the ranks of the Black Panther Party. It was shown that O'Neal acted as a conscious COINTELPRO agent, who actively played a disruptive role.

A map of Hampton's apartment, with an "X" marking the spot where the dynamic Party leader slept, was turned over by O'Neal to FBI agent Roy Mitchell and then given to Hanrahan's special raiding force. For his part in the raid, O'Neal was paid a bonus of \$300 by the FBI.

The police, it was shown, decided against raiding the apartment when they knew the occupants would not be there, instead picking the ominous 4:00 a.m. time, knowing that Fred Hampton and others would be at home and asleep.

DRAMATIC TESTIMONY

Then the moving and dramatic testimony of the survivors of the raid, was presented, including the testimony of Ms. Deborah Johnson, asleep and pregnant at the time of the raid with Fred Hampton, Jr. Ms. Johnson testified that when she was ordered out of the room by the police, Fred Hampton was unconscious on the bed, but was not dead. She testified that she had been unable to wake the sleeping 21-year-old deputy BPP chairman.

Later, an independent autopsy was to show that Hampton was drugged.

Ms. Johnson testified that after she left the room, she heard shots and then the words, "*He's good and dead now.*"

Finally, the plaintiffs' attorneys reminded Perry of the extensive evidence pointing to a conspiracy by the FBI and Hanrahan, including a series of press conferences and fabricated simulations of the raid. An FBI internal memorandum was produced supporting the plaintiffs' contention that the Justice Department had convinced Hanrahan to drop charges against the survivors of the raid in return for a federal grand jury not indicting Hanrahan and his raiding police squad.

Clearly, the FBI as well as Hanrahan were attempting to keep secret their role in the



Ms. Johnson (left) testified that she heard shots and then the words, "He's good and dead now."

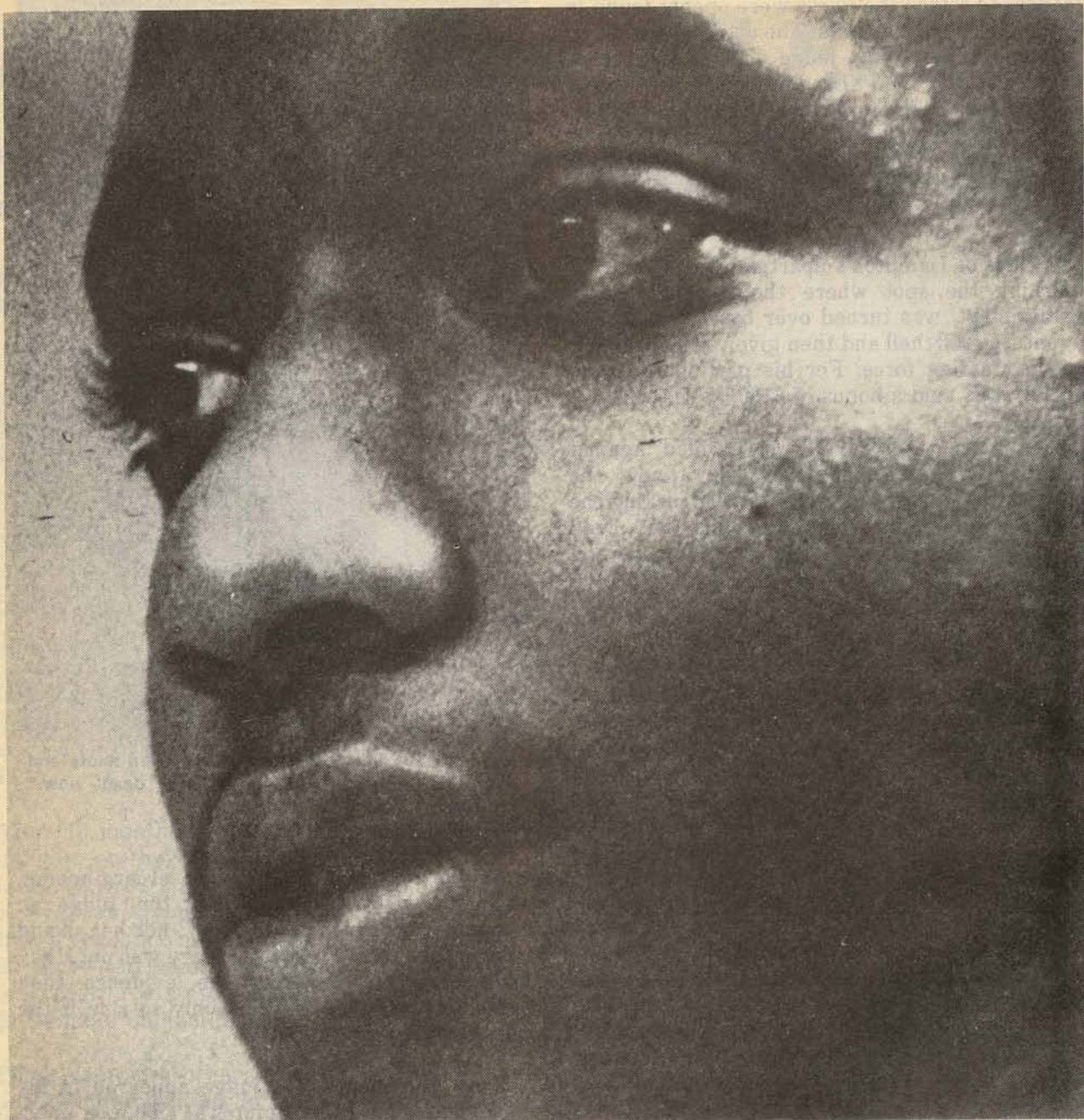
assassination.

At the end of one long day of arguments, plaintiffs' attorneys called on the judge to remember that by law, the jury, not he, should rule on the facts of the case. Perry was not, they maintained, to decide if the evidence they presented was true. He had only to rule if the case had been presented.

Then, last month, the judge appeared in his dark glasses for a few minutes at 4:00 p.m. in his courtroom. It was only five days before the election in which defendant Hanrahan was a candidate for mayor. Clearing his throat, Perry quickly announced his order dismissing the case against all the FBI defendants, the state and county defendants, Hanrahan and eight of the police officers.

For the second time in five years, Hanrahan has avoided a trial by jury for the murders of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark.

Motions were filed last month for a mistrial, urging that Perry's unprecedented awarding of court cost damages to the defendants midway in



After 16 months of documentation and testimony put on by the plaintiffs, who are the families of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark and the seven survivors of the raid, Perry, 80, a native of Alabama, not only dismissed the case on most of the defendants but ordered the plaintiffs to pay court costs estimated by some to be as high as half a million dollars.

the trial, along with Hanrahan's many press conferences, must have influenced the jury.

In addition, appeals on Perry's ruling are being filed.

Mark Clark's uncle, who has watched the trial closely, had this to say: "It's ridiculous. To say that there was no conspiracy is ridiculous. Police who weren't shooting were there to back up those who were. They dismissed it against everybody but the seven police, and I wouldn't be

surprised if they dismissed that, too."

Fred Hampton's brother Bill said, "I'm not surprised. It's just another annihilation in the courts against Blacks and minorities. We must realize that countless other minorities and Blacks have been turned on by the same court. The judge's personal feelings entered into his decision because he didn't like the plaintiffs or their attorneys." 0

Reprinted from The Black Panther

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

50 Per Cent of Families On Welfare Are White

(Washington, D.C.) According to a report released last month by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), for the first time in a decade more than half of the families on welfare rolls are White, dispelling the myth that minorities comprise the bulk of those receiving public aid.

The report also pointed out that many welfare families are also moving from bigger to smaller cities, have fewer children, spend more time on welfare rolls and increasingly live in homes headed by women.

Even though the greatest number of persons on welfare have, in fact, always been Whites, this was the first time since 1967 that over 50 per cent of those receiving family welfare aid were White, according to government figures.

Whites are 50.2 per cent of AFDC recipients, up from 46.9 per cent in 1973. Blacks were down from 49.8 to 44.3 per cent, American Indians were unchanged at 1.1 per cent, and other minorities were down from 6.2 to 4.3 per cent.

The percentage of welfare families headed by women, says the report, has increased from 75.8 to 81 per cent.

The study also found that one of every seven welfare families lives in Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, New York or Philadelphia, compared to one out of every five in 1973.

Welfare families spend on average 31 months on the rolls as opposed to 24 months in 1973, reflecting an increase in economic hardship. The HEW report found the average number of children in an AFDC family is down from 2.6 to 2.4.

Absence of a father from the home was the basis for eligibility of 83 per cent of AFDC children, up from 80 per cent. O

Attacks On Undocumented Workers Escalate

(Chicago, ILL.) Rudolfo Lozano of CASA, and Jose Jacques Medina (currently fighting against his own deportation and for political asylum in this country) held a press conference here May 2, to draw attention to the plight of undocumented workers in the United States. Following is the text of their statement.

"The campaign against undocumented workers in the country has grown to tremendous proportions in the last few years. As has been the tradition during times of economic crisis, the undocumented and the Mexican, in particular, have become the target of repression and racism.

"Throughout the country, states have legislation pending which claims to put an end to the problem of immigration to this country and create jobs for the many unemployed.

"In the Illinois state legislature there are two bills - H.B. 230 and S.B. 284 - which on the surface pretend to solve the so-called 'illegal



Undocumented workers being herded into vans by INS officials and local police.



The border between the U.S. and Mexico. INS agents recently attacked two Mexican workers by the Texas border. After being viciously beaten, one of the workers died.

alien' problem in our state. Both pieces of legislation make illegal the hiring of undocumented workers. One of the bills stipulates that the hiring of undocumented workers is illegal with the exception of farm and agricultural labor.

"These particular bills uncover the real purpose of such legislation as a means of controlling and maintaining a supply of cheap labor and not as a measure to create jobs for unemployed Americans. Such legislation will have and already is having a detrimental effect on the entire Latino population.

"On April 19 the INS conducted a factory raid rounding up 127 undocumented workers. At no time did the INS have a warrant for the arrest of any particular individual. Every brown-skinned worker was asked for identification regardless of whether or not he was a citizen. The practices of factory raids, deportation and the harassment of residents and citizens of Mexican descent is inhuman and a violation of basic human and civil rights.

"While the U.S. government is busy demanding the human rights of people in other countries, it has done little to guarantee the human rights of people in its own country such as the right to jobs for all, the right to quality education and the

right to decent housing.

"The problem of immigration cannot be resolved as long as human and civil rights of others are violated. The problem is international in dimension and, therefore, cannot be remedied by national or local proposals. As long as large corporations from the United States are allowed to run (J.way, leaving thousands unemployed, to exploit the labor of other countries, we continue to have unemployment at home.

"We cannot allow the government to place the blame for economic crisis on those who do not control the economy. We cannot allow the human and civil rights of people in our country to be violated. We cannot allow the legalization of discrimination against Mexican workers with the passage of State Bills 230 and 284.

"We must demand a complete and unconditional amnesty for undocumented workers in the country, guaranteeing full democratic and citizenship rights. We must demand an end to deportation and factory raids and condemn them for what they are - fascist tactics of repression. We urge all concerned people to write the state legislature and declare HB 230 and SB 284 as anti-immigrant and anti-worker bills discriminating against Mexican people." O

INTERCOMMUNAL PERSPECTIVE

Puerto Rican Workers Deformed By Chemical Poisoning

The cases of yet more workers poisoned with female hormones while they manufactured contraceptive pills at the Parke-Davis plant in Fajardo, have been revealed to *Claridad*. Reportedly, the workers intoxicated with the female hormone, estrogen, are not protected by any laws and will find it difficult to get assistance from the State Insurance fund.

The physical appearance of the workers poisoned with estrogen has changed. Their breasts have become inflamed and developed strange glands. Workers have suffered sexual impotence and other physical deformities.

The majority of the workers affected were contaminated in 1970 and 1974 and many of them no longer work at Parke-Davis. Some of the workers reported that shortly after telling the management of their problems and physical changes they were pressured to resign or were declared disabled for reasons that excluded their estrogen poisoning. At that time the plant was called Park Tab Corporation, and a few years later, the name was changed to Parke-Davis.

One of the young men affected suffered impotence and psychological problems. He was incapacitated by the Veteran's Administration although his case was originally diagnosed as estrogen poisoning. Other cases reported show damage to the brain, the heart and the nervous system.

One of the women workers interviewed was forced to leave her job after three years, due to the irregularities and illnesses she suffered from the contamination. The 37-year old worker and mother of two children, requested that her name not be published because of her delicate situation. She reported that after working at the plant a while, she began to notice changes in her body, especially her breasts. Simultaneously she

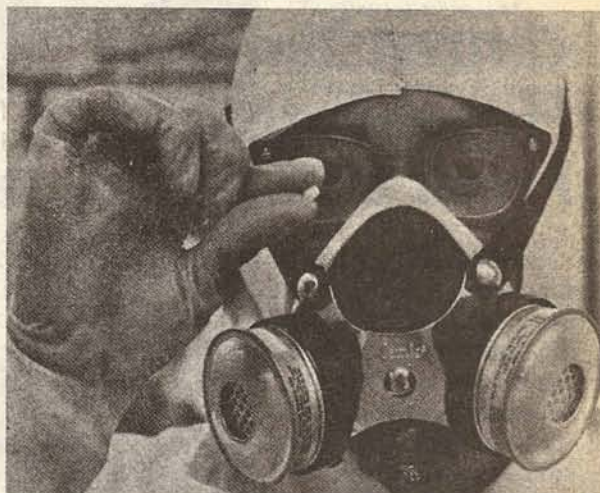
experienced dizziness, headaches, anxiety, depression and other symptoms.

After a doctor diagnosed her problem as estrogen poisoning, she had eight operations on her breasts. As a result, she is permanently incapable of doing any manual labor. The worker said that although she has not worked at Parke-Davis for several years and although she has been under medical treatment, her situation has deteriorated.

Three other-cases of estrqgen poisoning, two women and one man, were reported at the same time, according to one of the workers interviewed. The three workers still suffer from the poisoning. The man, who also became impotent from the hormones, was affected mentally and had to remain at home. He could not get compensation from the State Insurance fund.

Nilsa Iris Hernandez, another of the workers who was poisoned in 1972, told *Claridad* that six months after working in the plant she began to put on weight disproportionately and had pains in her breasts. She developed hair on her chin, intense headaches, anxiety and sporadic depression. She reported that her condition worsened until, on April 11, 1972, a private doctor whom she had been forced to seek out, diagnosed estrogen poisoning.

Mrs. Hernandez said that after notifying Parke-Davis of the doctor's diagnosis, she was pressured to leave her job. The pressures from management finally forced her to resign at which time she stated clearly that she was leaving because her health was affected by the contamination.



Workers handled the pill directly. Few have protective masks like the one above.

Subsequently another doctor determined her brain was affected by the estrogen. In spite of laboratory analyses and medical diagnoses, Mrs. Hernandez' health problems are not recognized by Social Security as illnesses induced by her job. She has received no disability compensation.

Mrs. Hernandez, as well as others interviewed, worked in packaging and selecting the contraceptive pills. Consequently workers handled the pill directly although sometimes they used minimal protective equipment such as robes and caps. Nevertheless, by the end of the day their arms and faces were totally covered by dust from the pills.

The workers affected by the poisoning, several of whom took legal action for compensation, find that in Puerto Rico, poisoning from the manufacture of birth control pills is not considered an occupational disease. It has been impossible for them to get any protection from the State Insurance fund or from the Parke-Davis corporation.

Workers who come into contact with the estrogen hormone may be contaminated through the skin, if they are not sufficiently protected, or through the mucous membranes while breathing.

In Puerto Rico, there, are at least four contraceptive companies' whose workers are exposed to the same risks affecting workers of Ortho in Dorado and Pake-Davis in Fajardo. Sintex in Humacao and Searle in Caguas are the other two contraceptive-producing companies in Puerto Rico.

Reprinted from Claridad

United Nations Hears Patriotic Front O/Zimbabwe

On Thursday, April 21, a representative of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) acting as the spokesperson of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe, presented the official current position of the Patriotic Front on the situation in Zimbabwe, to the United Nations Committee of Twenty-Four. Following *KEEP STRONG* presents excerpts from this speech:

"Your excellencies are aware that ZANU and



Patriotic Front leaders Robert Mugabe of ZANU (left) and Joshua Nkomo of ZAPU (right).

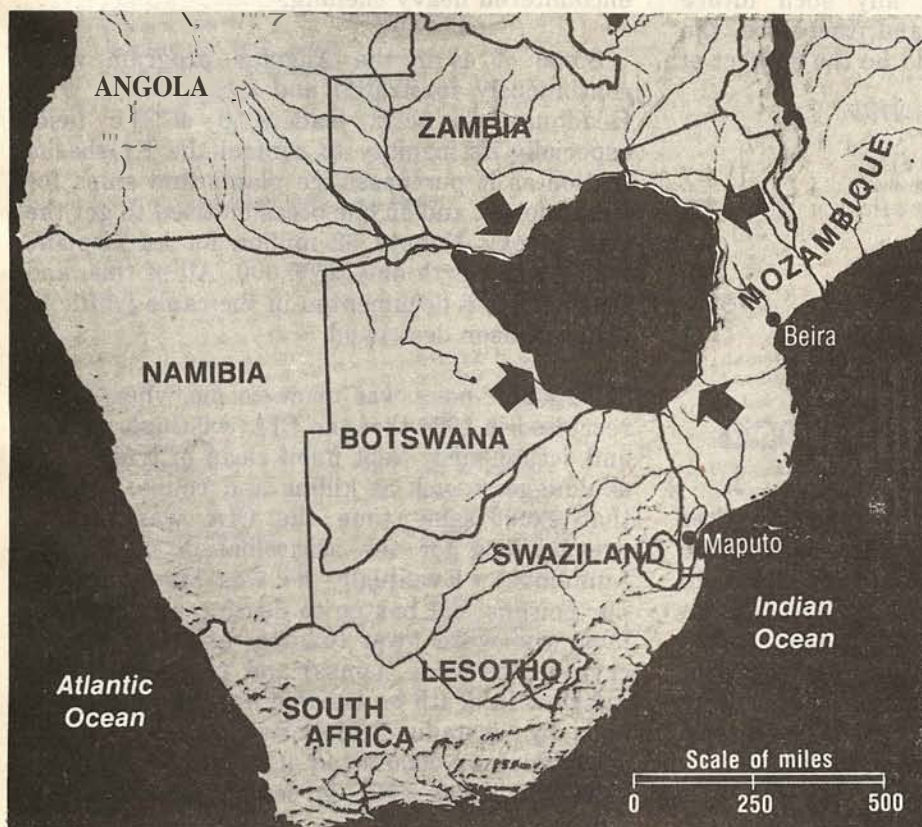
its partner in the Patriotic Front, ZAPU, attended the Geneva Conference on the constitutional problem of Rhodesia called by the British Government last year. Your excellencies are also aware that the Patriotic Front presented the correct position at that Geneva conference." "Our position, as reflected in the MAPUTO Declaration and the documents and statements published in Geneva was and remains that the Ian Smith regime must hand over state power to the African people of Zimbabwe promptly and without any further delay. We made it clear then, and we take this opportunity to reiterate the same, that the question of the sovereignty of the African people of Zimbabwe is not and it cannot be the subject of constitutional negotiations. Sovereignty is an attribute of our people, indeed, of all national peoples. What has happened in Zimbabwe is that, as a result of British imperialism and colonialism, a small collection of British settlers assumed the role of government over our people thereby usurping an important attribute of the sovereignty of our people. The struggle since occupation then, has been one in which our people have continued to struggle to reassert their sovereignty by recapturing state power. Consequently, the Patriotic Front correctly maintained the view at Geneva that the conference could only yield results acceptable to the African people if its sole purpose was to devise and implement forthwith a method for the hand over of state power to our sovereign people. Meanwhile, we maintained at Geneva, as we do now, that "the heroic armed struggle of our people to seize state power in Zimbabwe would continue unabated.

"Your excellencies will by now be aware that the so-called Kissinger-Smith-Vorster Agree-

ment worked out in Pretoria last year could not have produced the kind of solution consistent with our declared correct stand. What it sought to create was a dummy administrative structure in Salisbury masquerading as a government when in fact, it was no such thing. The structure, had it been set up, would have been a two-headed jellyfish manifesting a so-called council of state and a so-called council of ministers as legislative organs, but both held to ransom by a fascist clique in control of the armed and police forces, ...

"Your excellencies, since Geneva, the Patriotic Front has concentrated all its energies to prosecuting the armed struggle. That we are being very effective on the ground, is a matter of common knowledge. More and more settlers are leaving the country by the day in what the British press has termed 'the chickens run route.' More than 300 Rhodesian tobacco farmers have been to Brazil recently to see if they could start a new Fascist life out there. Everyday, the regime's Minister of Defense and Information announces long casualty lists being sustained by the regime's forces and allies. We, too, of course, have suffered losses in the field, but we are delighted to report that the casualty ratio is very healthy in our favor. We have the settlers by the scruff, and we are happy to announce that victory is certain and imminent.

"Your excellencies, we come before you today to call your attention to the machinations now being hatched in enemy camp. You are all aware that last week the British Foreign Secretary was in Southern Africa where he conferred with our Comrade President of Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana and Angola, as well as Ian Smith and John Vorster. You are also aware that the British Foreign Secretary saw us - the Patriotic Front. You are also aware, your excellencies, that the British Government is trying to sell what had come to be known as the New Anglo-American Initiative designed to "break the impasse" arising from the failure of the Geneva Conference. Our position regarding the New Anglo-American initiative has been stated eloquently by Secretary General Robert Mugabe. In his own words, 'The British Government has failed to convince us that the Ian Smith clique intends to hand over state power without equivocation and further delay.' On the matter of attending another Geneva Conference, the Patriotic Front's position is crystal clear. We will only attend such a conference if the parties to the Zimbabwe constitutional dispute are properly and correctly identified. Those parties are (1) the British Government and their allies, (e.g. the United States, Ian Smith, etc., etc.,), and (2) the Patriotic Front". We contend, therefore, that Ian Smith, Bishop Muzorewa, Ndabaningi Sithole, and representatives of the chiefs' party



The Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe: "We are being very effective on the ground, , , We have the settlers by the scruff, and we are happy to announce that victory is certain and imminent."



Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith (left) and British Foreign Secretary Owen (right).

sponsored by the regime constitute one interest group and should, therefore, be only one delegation. ... Their views and dreams are the same as those represented by the ... British government. There is no need to over represent that point of view ... Further, we would like this body to be aware that at any such future conference the sole purpose and, therefore, the sole item on the agenda should be the subject of the transfer of power ...•• 0

Ex-CIA Agent Denounces CIA Activities In Africa

John R. Stockwell, recently quit the CIA after having been an agent for 13 years. In a letter which he wrote to CIA director Adm. Stanfield Turner, he severely criticized the CIA for its double-handed tactics. In this letter some revealing facts about CIA activity are exposed, especially their activities in Africa, particularly in Angola, Zaire and with regards to mercenaries. Following are excerpts of his letter.

"From a chess player's point of view the

intervention (in Angola) was a blunder. In July, 1975, the MPLA was clearly winning, already controlling 12 of the 15 provinces, and was thought by several responsible American officials and senators to be the best qualified to run Angola; nor was it hostile to the United States. The CIA committed \$31 million to opposing the MPLA victory, but six months later it had nevertheless decisively won ... At the same time United States covert military intervention in Africa was exposed. The U.S. lost all credibility when it sided with South Africa and was defeated.

"Is anyone surprised that a year later the Angolan government has permitted freshly armed Zairean exiles to invade the Shaba Province of Zaire? (The CIA activities in Angola were directed from the CIA station in Kinshasa, Zaire.) Is the CIA a good friend? Having encouraged Mobutu (the president of Zaire) to tease the Angolan lion, will it help him repel its retaliatory charge? Can one not argue that our Angolan program provoked the present invasion of Zaire, which may lead to its loss of the Shaba's rich copper mines? Yes,--I know you are attempting to generate token support to help Zaire meet its crisis; that you are seeking out the same French mercenaries the CIA sent into Angola in early 1976. These are the men who took the CIA money, but fled the first time they encountered heavy shelling.

Some of us in the Angolan program were continuously frustrated and disappointed with Headquarter's weak leadership of the field, especially its inability to control the Kinshasha station as it purchases ice plants and ships for local friends, and on one occasion tried to get the CIA to pay Mobutu \$2 million for an airplane which was worth only \$600,000. All of this, and much more, is documented in the cable traffic, if it hasn't been destroyed.

"A major point was made to me when I was recruited in 1964 that the CIA was high-minded and scrupulously kept itself clean of truly dirty skulduggery such as killing and coups, etc. At that exact same time the CIA was making preparations for the assassination of Patrice Lumumba ... Eventually he was killed, not by our poisons, but beaten to death, apparently by men who were loyal to men who had agency cryptonyms (code names) and received agency salaries. In death he became an eternal martyr, and by installing Mobutu in the Zairean presidency we committed ourselves to the other side; the losing side, in central and southern Africa. 0

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“ROCKY”

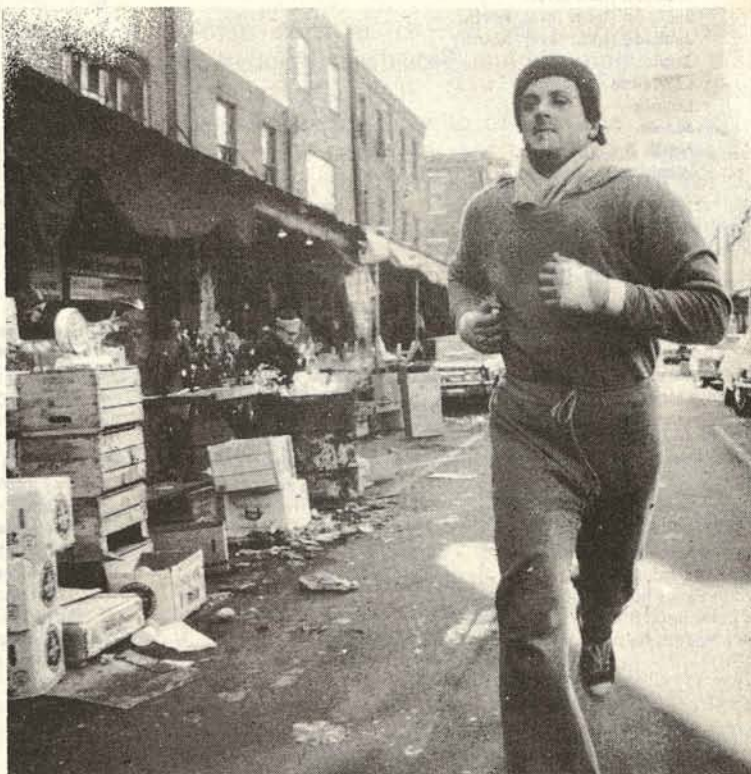
"This is for all the Rocky's out there." These were the words of leading actor Sylvester Stallone when he accepted the academy award for the motion picture "Rocky," the screenplay for which he also wrote. While some critics may not like the film, millions will go to see it, because there are indeed a lot of Rocky's out there.

"Rocky" is the story of a 30-year old Italian brother in Philadelphia. "Rocky" is a boxer who makes thirty or forty dollars when he wins a fight: not exactly the big time. As a matter of fact Rocky is definitely small time. He works as a "collector" for the local juice racket to pay the rent and buy the food. But like everybody else, Rocky has a dream of being first class.

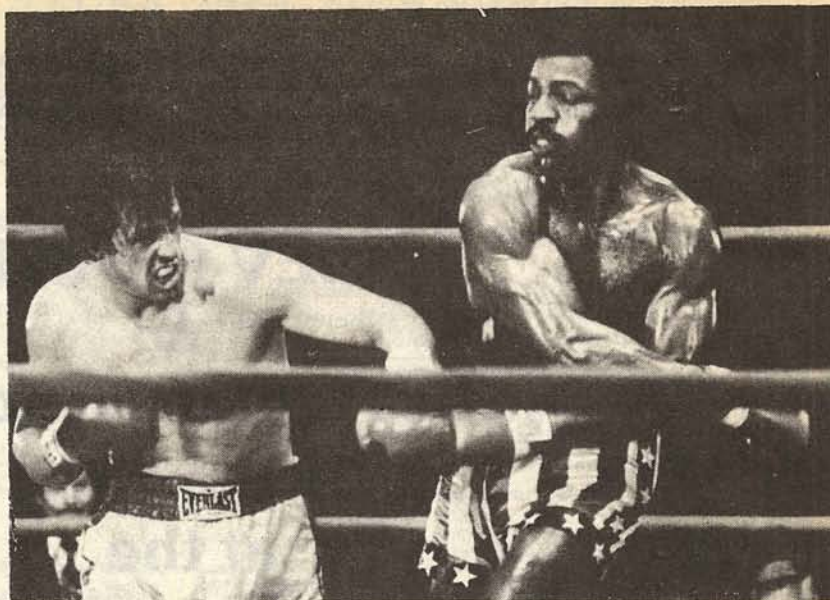
In this movie, Rocky gets the chance to be "first class," the once in a lifetime longshot, and he makes it. But along the way, we find out that he makes it because he always had it in him to make it.

The struggle to survive in the oppressive conditions of Philadelphia-or Chicago-or New York-doesn't give everyone the opportunity to be the kind of human being they might want. But Rocky proves it doesn't take away our humanity. In the middle of everything Rocky can take time to straighten out a young sister who is losing her self-respect hanging on the corner. She doesn't thank him, but she understands. When the owner of the gym gives our man's locker away after six years, it hurts. He wants to know

Rocky trains. He determines that he will achieve one thing, he will "go the distance."



After 15 rounds, Apollo Creed says, "I'm not going to give you no rematch." Rocky replies, "I don't want one!"



why he can't get respect. But he knows people lose respect because conditions make people into something that isn't respected. The owner tells him, "I hate you because you could have been a class A fighter, and instead you're an arm breaker."

Rocky's love affair is with a shy woman who works in a pet store and lives with her brother. It takes him painful months to bring her out of her shell. But he won't overlook her, because she is shy and "plain." Rocky doesn't overlook anybody. He's not perfect, but he wants respect for himself as a human being. He knows that other people want respect to, and he gives it to them when he can.

Then he gets his break. "Apollo Creed," the Black heavyweight champion of the world, is looking for a contender to fight on the 4th of July in Philadelphia in the bicentennial year. He can't get a contender so he decides on an idea that will draw a crowd and put on a good show. He'll pick up a nobody and give him a chance to fight. His promoter says sarcastically that that is very American; Apollo says no, it's very smart. Leafing through his fight books, Creed picks out Rocky, who has nicknamed himself the "Italian Stallion."

Rocky begins to train. He finds himself the center of attention and on television from time to time. He tries to take it in his stride so that they don't make a chump out of him. He admits to Adrian, his girl, that it is "getting to him" a little. On the night before the championship fight he gets depressed. He feels like he hasn't got a chance, like he is out of his class. He determines that he will achieve one thing, he will "go the

distance."

After 15 rounds of pure heart, Rocky loses a decision to the champ. Apollo Creed, who has taken quite a beating himself says, "I'm not going to give you no rematch." Rocky replies, "I don't want one!" All he wanted was to be equal to the best. He showed that, like millions of other Rocky's, if he was given the chance, he was as good as anybody. Rocky isn't "the great white hope." In fact he thinks it is an honor to be in the ring with the champion. Perhaps only a Black champion would have thought to make such a fight possible - for whatever reason.

Those who look down on the poor Whites in the ghettos of the big cities think of us as trash, the scum of the earth, bums that can be manipulated by those in power to do anything they want. To them "Rocky" is the story of an extra-ordinary individual with a once in a lifetime shot at fame and fortune. They don't understand the film. There are thousands of Rocky's whom oppression has taught strength and wisdom and in whom injustice has planted the seeds of real justice. Those who look down from on high can't see the Rocky in each of us: and that is one of the reasons they are going to lose their empire. D

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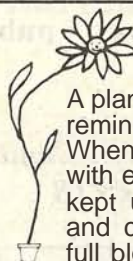
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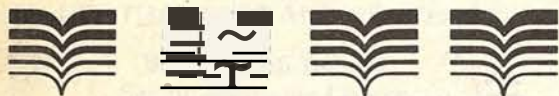
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Mutual aid programs also exist to deal with basic food, transportation and medical needs to the more severely afflicted black lung victims.

Intercommunal News Service

Provides news and information about the world and poor and oppressed communities through the distribution of *Keep Strong* magazine and *The Black Panther*.

Food Cooperatives

Provides good quality foods at lower than supermarket prices through community participation and community co-operative buying.

"The ISC was organized because there was a need for it among poor and working people across this country, and for no other reason. It was the intention of this committee to begin building a structured political vehicle which could represent in action the interest of poor and working White people, bring them in unity with their natural allies in the Black and Latino communities, and develop the organizational backbone necessary to change the conditions of oppression that still continue today."

*Taken from the Seventh Anniversary Statement of the
Intercommunal Survival Committee*